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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report examines statewide trends between 1990 and 1996 in the well-being of Arizona's children. The statistical portrait is based on 16 indicators of well-being: (1) prenatal care; (2) incidence of low birth weight; (3) state-approved child care spaces; (4) comprehensive preschool services; (5) lack of health insurance; (6) infant mortality rate; (7) child death rate (ages 1-14); (8) gun-related deaths; (9) adolescent death rate; (10) teen birth rate; (11) high school dropout rate; (12) juvenile violent crime arrest rate; (13) child abuse and neglect reports; (14) substantiated abuse and neglect; (15) children in foster care; and (16) deaths from abuse and neglect. Chapter 1 of the report indicates that most progress has been slight and setbacks have been substantial. The dropout rate and juvenile violent crime arrest rate have dropped, but the juvenile drug crime arrest rate has soared, and the percentage of children without health insurance has continued to rise. The child death rate has declined, but the teen death rate has risen and the death rate from abuse and neglect has nearly doubled. The percentage of children in foster care has risen 25 percent. Chapter 2 of the report reveals considerable variation in risk indicators by county. Chapter 3 focuses on the impact of welfare reform on family income, family stability, and access to services. Chapter 4 describes public policy areas that have potential to strengthen working families and opportunities for citizen action. Appendices present rates for each indicator, references, and data sources. Contains 23 references. (KB)

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THE STATE OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN 1997

CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

kids count

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Children's Action Alliance (CAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research, education and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of all of Arizona's children and families. Through research, publications, media campaigns, and advocacy, we act as a strong and independent voice for children who cannot speak for themselves. We work to educate the public and policymakers about children's needs and to promote effective strategies to improve the lives of children and their families.

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THE STATE OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION 1

1. STATEWIDE FINDINGS 5

Statewide Trends 1990 to 1996 5

What's Changed Since 1994? 7

Family Income 8

Early Care and Education 10

Child Health and Safety 12

Teens at Risk 13

Juvenile Crime 14

Child Abuse and Neglect 16

Why Do These Numbers Matter? 17

2. COUNTY FINDINGS 21

Summary of Risk Indicators by County 22

Apache 24

Cochise 26

Coconino 28

Gila 30

Graham 32

Greenlee 34

La Paz 36

Maricopa 38

Mojave 40

Navajo 42

Pima 44

Pinal 46

Santa Cruz 48

Yavapai 50

Yuma 52

3. WELFARE REFORM: THREATS AND PROMISES FOR ARIZONA'S CHILDREN **55**
The Welfare Laws 56
Family Income 57
Family Stability 59
Access To Services 60
Future Opportunities 61

4. TRANSLATING OUR STATE'S WEALTH INTO CHILDREN'S HEALTH **63**

5. APPENDICES **67**
Appendix 1 Arizona Trends, 1990, 1994, 1996 67
Appendix 2: Arizona's Child Population by Age Range 70
Appendix 3: County Rankings 1996 71
Appendix 4: Endnotes 73
Appendix 5: Data Notes and Sources 74

Introduction

For many years now, Arizona's population and economy have been expanding. While the rest of the country grows modestly, Arizona is consistently rated as a leader in population growth and employment growth. Unemployment is low, construction is bustling, retail sales are robust, and higher-than-expected state revenues have been turned into tax cuts. At the end of fiscal year 1997, we had more than $550 million left unspent in state coffers. With all this prosperous activity, one might reasonably assume that the condition of our state's children would reflect similarly dramatic advances. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

The data in this report illustrate a mixture of positive and negative trends. Unfortunately, most of the progress has been slight, while most of the setbacks have been substantial. The school drop-out rate and the arrest rate for juveniles committing violent crimes has dropped, but the arrest rate for juveniles committing drug crimes has soared, and the percentage of children with no health care coverage has continued to rise. The child death rate has declined, but the teen death rate has risen.

In this era of federal deregulation and block grants to states, Arizonans have both the opportunity and the responsibility to cope with the gap in children's health care coverage, the tragedies of child abuse and neglect, and the struggles of parents without job skills.

But there is hope. More than ever before, it is up to us in Arizona to make a difference in these trends. In this era of federal deregulation and block grants to states, Arizonans have both the opportunity and the responsibility to cope with the gap in children's health care coverage, the tragedies of child abuse and neglect, and the struggles of parents without job skills. There is clear evidence that community effort can help prevent teenagers from having babies, committing crimes, and dropping out of school.

Fortunately, we have the tools we need to face these challenges. The risk indicators reported here confirm that focused attention, money, and uninterrupted effort over time will produce good results. As a result of increased federal and state investment, more children are now getting access to quality preschool and more parents are getting help paying for child care. Thanks to sustained outreach efforts and funding, more women are receiving prenatal care and fewer babies are dying. With much community attention, the rate of children killed by guns and the rate of babies born to teenage moms have dropped since 1994.

But we have a long way to go to reach the point where every Arizona child has the opportunity to succeed. The rate of reports of child abuse and neglect needing investigation grew 29% between 1991 and 1997. Our capacity to respond to these reports deteriorated, resulting in the investigation rate falling from 89% in 1991 to 84% in 1997. The rate of child deaths due to abuse or neglect nearly doubled during that time. And perhaps the most alarming statistic in this report is the 25% jump in the percentage of Arizona children living in foster care. These are the most vulnerable children in our communities, growing up without the security of a stable family. Their safety and well-being is our responsibility.

Clearly, we are failing to protect children because we are not helping their troubled families early on, and we are failing to help children find safe and permanent homes before they wait too long. The data confirm that tax cuts and job growth do not automatically translate into better lives for children. How can we make the circumstances for children and families better across the spectrum of risk indicators?

One answer lies in building the capacity of Arizona families to succeed. When families are healthy and able to conduct their daily lives with hope and dignity, children typically thrive. Children learn that hard work and responsible behavior pay big dividends. But too many of Arizona's families are acting responsibly while losing ground. We have a growing number of working parents in Arizona whose wages are simply not enough to take care of their children's basic needs. Yet our welfare reform policies have presented "work" as the solution for struggling families.

Despite a thriving economy, the number of children without health insurance now totals nearly 200,000. Over a six-year period — while Arizona's economy grew stronger — the percentage of school-age children with family income below 185% of the federal poverty level rose from just over one-third to almost one-half (annual income of $24,200 for a family of three). The percentage of children whose families rely on welfare and food stamps has grown by nearly 30%.

Teenagers dropping out of school, having babies, and getting involved in crime are predictable outcomes of child poverty, and Arizona ranks high on all three. More than a fifth of Arizona's children live in poverty. Although our economy has been one of the fastest growing in the nation during the 1990s, our child poverty rate has remained consistently above the national rate.

These statistics do not bode well for our future. Poverty has profound effects on children, and the more time a child spends in poverty, the worse the consequences. Poor children have more health problems, poorer performance in school, lower IQs, and achieve lower economic productivity later in life. They are more likely to be abused or neglected and more likely to spend hours in substandard child care.[1] Of all the measurable risk factors that have an impact on the quality of a child's life, poverty signals the most devastating and far-reaching consequences.

The numbers are startling in their magnitude — almost one out of every five of Arizona's children lives below the federal poverty line and another quarter subsist just above that level. Arizonans have recognized the problem. In a recent survey of the Phoenix metropolitan area, three-quarters of the respondents thought that

Although our economy has been one of the fastest growing in the nation during the 1990s, our child poverty rate has remained consistently above the national rate.

child poverty was either a problem or a severe problem. Eight out of ten said that child abuse is a problem or a severe problem.[2]

Arizonans also recognize that a job alone is not enough for many parents to be able to take good care of their children. Voters passed landmark propositions in 1994 and 1996 allocating tax dollars for greater health care coverage for low-income, working families. So far, these voter mandates remain unfulfilled.

The promise of welfare reform remains incomplete, as well. We have focussed our initial attention on moving people from the welfare rolls into jobs, but we haven't yet faced the more complex circumstances and consequences of this policy. More than two-thirds of welfare recipients are children. What will happen to them if their parents move into low-wage jobs without a safety net? What will happen to them if their parents won't or can't work? We have devoted a special section of our report this year to these critically important questions.

Starving government budgets that provide for needy children and hoping that charity will take up the slack is not enough.

Arizona state government now has much of the authority and flexibility from the federal government that many have been asking for. Today the responsibility for making things work and spending tax dollars effectively is squarely in the hands of our state leaders. Moving people off welfare into low-wage jobs without benefits is simply not enough. Cutting taxes and simply assuming that prosperity will trickle down is not enough. Starving government budgets that provide for needy children and hoping that charity will take up the slack is not enough. We have the capacity to do much more.

With vision and commitment, we can shape public policies to help parents succeed. With determination and understanding, business, charities, and government can together improve the lives and life chances for hundreds of thousands of Arizona's children.

chapter 1

Statewide Findings

The State of Arizona's Children 1997/98 is the fourth comprehensive look at the status of children and families in Arizona. It is based on indicators that, when taken as a whole, reflect threats to child well-being in our state. This report focuses on data that have been collected over several years, allowing us to examine trends in the status of Arizona's children.

Our last report compared child well-being in 1990 and 1994. This report compares 1990 and 1996. Charts 1 and 2 display summaries of these trends. By and large, the trends in child well-being occurring between 1990 and 1994 continued through 1996. While the state population and economy grew dramatically, the condition of children continued to deteriorate in many ways. The box on page 7 describes a number of important areas in which the trends of the early 1990's were reversed between 1994 and 1996.

STATEWIDE TRENDS 1990 TO 1996

Tables 4 through 10 display the indicators, by category, which are established and available measurements of threats to child well-being. The tables show the number of Arizona children with each risk indicator in 1996. The tables also show the rate of occurrence of each indicator in 1990 and 1996, which is the number as a percentage of the relevant child population. The rate change column is calculated as the percentage increase or decrease. For example, if the 1990 rate was 10% and the 1996 rate was 20%, the rate change would be 100%.

Population figures are displayed in Appendix 2, and data sources and descriptions are in Appendix 5.

1. HOW WELL ARE OUR CHILDREN DOING?

Rate Trends from 1990 to 1996

Early Care and Education	
Prenatal Care	Much Better
Low Birthweight Babies	Worse
State-Approved Child Care Spaces	Much Better
Comprehensive Preschool Services*	Much Better
Child Health and Safety	
Lack of Health Insurance+	Worse
Infant Deaths	Better
Child Deaths (1-14)	Better
Gun-Related Deaths	Much Worse
Youth at Risk	
Teen Deaths	Much Worse
Births to Teens	Worse
School Drop-Outs ^	Better
Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes	Better
Child Abuse and Neglect (1991 to 1997)	
Reports Investigated	Worse
Substantiated Abuse and Neglect	Worse
Children in Foster Care	Much Worse
Deaths from Abuse and Neglect	Much Worse

Much better or much worse indicates a rate changes of 25% or more

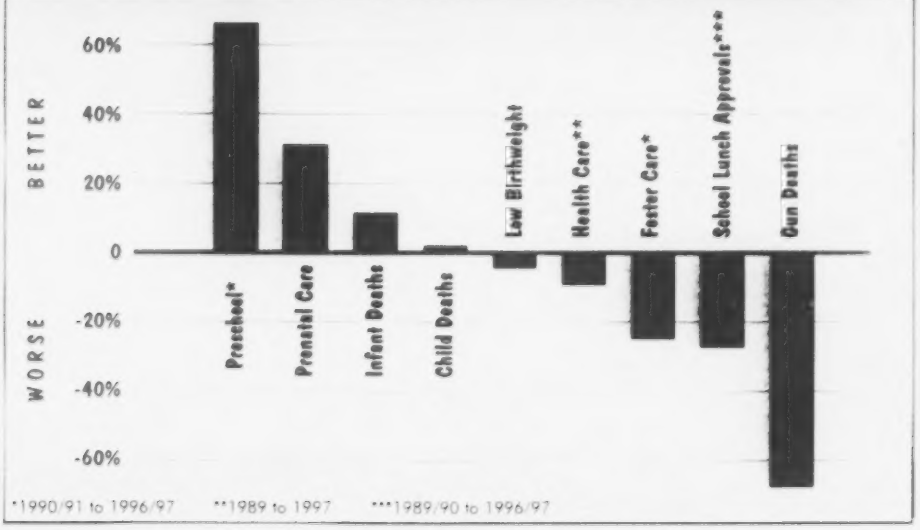
* 1991-1997

\+ 1989 to 1997

^ 1992/93 to 1994/95

2. RISKS TO ARIZONA CHILDREN

Rate Trends from 1990 to 1996



*1990/91 to 1996/97 **1989 to 1997 ***1989/90 to 1996/97

FAMILY INCOME

Poverty Rates

The most consistent and critical factor that threatens a child's well-being and capacity to reach his or her potential is poverty.

The most consistent and critical factor that threatens a child's well-being and capacity to reach his or her potential is poverty. It is not a lack of material things that causes harm. It is malnutrition and lack of medical care. It is a lack of security. It is being surrounded by violence. It is being left alone or in substandard child care while parents are at work. It is the overwhelming stress that can cause families to crumble.

The child poverty rate in Arizona has been consistently worse than the national average, as shown in Table 3. Despite great economic growth since 1990, our child poverty rate has improved only slightly. More than one in five children in Arizona lived in poverty in 1996, which means their family income was below $12,500 for a family of three (the federal poverty level varies by family size). According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1995, more than one out of every eight families in Arizona went to bed hungry at night or was uncertain where their next meal was coming from. This is one of the highest rates in the country. The economic recovery and expansion of the 1990s has left more than 250,000 Arizona children behind, growing up at high risk for future disaster.

Low-Income Families

The number of children in Arizona approved for free and reduced-price school lunches is another measure of children growing up in low-income families. In 1996/97, 96% of Arizona's public school students attended schools that participated in the federal school lunch program. Students in these schools are eligible for reduced-price or free school lunches if their family income is below 185% of the federal poverty level ($24,000 for a family of three in 1996). While poverty rates between ten-year census data are by definition estimates, approvals for free and reduced-price lunches reflect the actual number of children who apply for the program and are determined eligible.

In 1996/97, 46% — almost half — of the students in participating schools were approved for free and reduced-price lunches. This figure (shown in Table 4) underestimates the number of children in low-income families because not all students who are eligible apply for the program. There was a 27% increase in the rate since

3. CHILDREN IN POVERTY

	1990 Rate	1996 Rate	Percentage Rate Change
Arizona	23.4%	22.9%	-2.1%
US	19.3%	19.2%	-0.5%

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WHAT'S CHANGED SINCE 1994?

In a number of important risk indicators, the negative trends between 1990 and 1994 took a positive turn between 1994 and 1996.

Child death rates declined between 1994 and 1996. The overall child death rate in 1996 was slightly lower than the rate in 1990. The rate of children killed by guns rose dramatically between 1990 and 1994, then fell slightly by 1996.

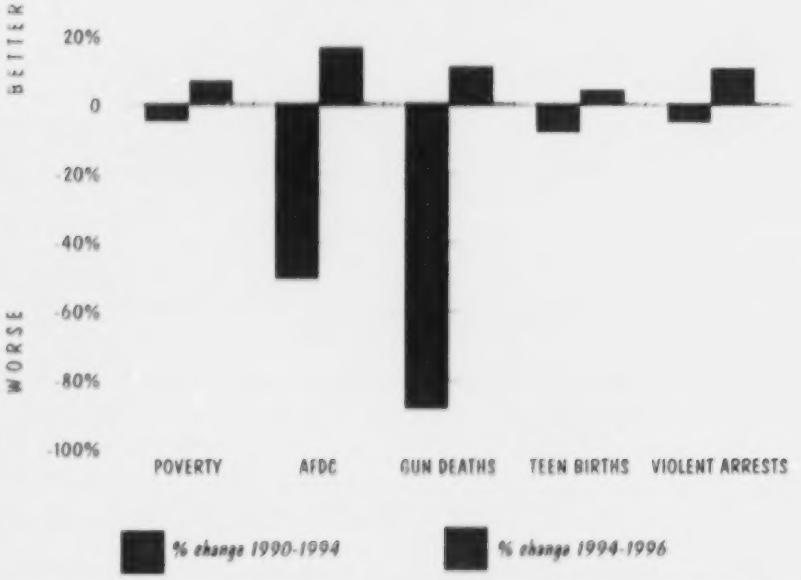
In addition, several measures of troubled teens showed improvement between 1994 and 1996. The rate of births to teen moms and the rate of teens killed by homicide and suicide all rose between 1990 and 1994, then fell by 1996. Contrary to popular belief, the juvenile arrest rate for violent crimes rose only slightly between 1990 and 1994, then fell by 1996. The juvenile violent crime arrest rate in 1996 was slightly lower than the arrest rate in 1990.

In a number of important areas, the trends of the early 1990s were reversed between 1994 and 1996.

The child poverty rate also dropped slightly between 1994 and 1996. Enrollment rates in Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), Food Stamps, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) health insurance program all declined between 1994 and 1996 after rising significantly in the early 1990s. It is important to note, however, that the drop in enrollment does not reflect a drop in need. By 1996, a lower percentage of poor children were receiving AFDC, Food Stamps, and AHCCCS than in 1994

Appendix I displays risk indicators in 1990, 1994 and 1996 for comparison purposes.

REVERSING TRENDS



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1990. While 1996 was a year of great economic and employment growth in Arizona, about half of our school-age children were living in low-income families.

The Safety Net

With our state and federal governments serving as one mechanism, Americans have developed some methods to enable poor parents to better care for their children — to help them meet their children's basic needs for food and shelter, to help them protect their children's health, and to help them raise their children into healthy, productive adults. The data in Table 4 demonstrate that significantly greater percentages of children live in families using publicly funded services.

The percentage of children in families receiving Food Stamps and AFDC rose significantly between 1990 and 1996. These are the two programs most commonly labeled "welfare." The increased participation rates are due, in part, to increased public education and outreach efforts so that more families know they can get services. Application procedures have also been somewhat streamlined to make it easier for families to enroll.

Adjusting for inflation, the income eligibility threshold for AFDC was slightly lower in 1996 than in 1990, meaning that families had to be more desperately poor to qualify for help. Enrollment rates in both AFDC and Food Stamps peaked in 1994 and have been falling since then. The declining rolls can be attributed in large

4. CHILDREN RECEIVING PUBLIC SERVICES IN ARIZONA

	1996 Number	1990 Rate	1996 Rate	Percentage Rate Change
Children approved for free and reduced price lunch	332,040*	36.1%	46.0%*	27.4%
Children in families receiving AFDC	**120,297**	**8.1%**	**10.2%**	**25.9%**
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	238,315	15.5%	20.1%	29.7%
Children enrolled in AHCCCS	**279,872**	**20.2%**	**22.2%**	**9.9%**
Births covered by AHCCCS	33,071	29.6%	44.6%	50.7%
Eligible students receiving migrant services	**7,066**	**80.0%****	**56.0%**	**-30.0%**
Average monthly participation in WIC (infants & children only)	107,163	16.7%	31.6%	89.2%

part to a strong economy and employment growth. In addition, Arizona enacted welfare reform measures in 1995 with time limits and other restrictions on AFDC benefits. Although no families had reached their time limits by 1996, the welfare rolls still declined. Many factors contributed: a stronger economy; public conversations about limiting benefits; caseworkers encouraging families to avoid applying for AFDC if at all possible or, if they must enroll, to find employment and transition off the rolls as quickly as possible.

The percentage of children enrolled in the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) health insurance program rose 10% between 1990 and 1996, partly due to expanded eligibility rules during that time. The 51% increase in the percentage of births covered by AHCCCS is due to expanded eligibility as well as to community outreach efforts to promote prenatal care. Some results of these efforts show up in the increased rate of adequate prenatal care and the reductions in babies born with very low birthweights and in infant deaths.

The large drop in the rate of eligible students receiving migrant services and the large increase in the rate of infants and children receiving WIC nutrition services are due to respective changes in federal funding.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

New research on brain development has found that the care a child receives in the first three years of life has decisive effects on how she will learn and cope with stress throughout her life. These findings emphasize the value of efforts to increase prenatal care, promote early childhood health care, and improve the quality and affordability of child care and preschool. During the 1990s, Arizona has paid more attention to these early childhood issues, with some positive results. (See Table 5.)

New research on brain development has found that the care a child receives in the first three years of life has decisive effects on how she will learn and cope with stress throughout her life.

Early Health Care

Research has shown that the impact of early care begins in the prenatal stage. The rate of pregnant women receiving inadequate prenatal care declined by 31% since 1990 (inadequate care is defined as fewer than five prenatal health care visits during pregnancy). A variety of increased outreach efforts have contributed to this improvement. The low birthweight rate (less than 2,501 grams) increased slightly despite this improvement in prenatal care. However, the most dangerous "very low" birthweight births (less than 1,501 grams) declined by 8%.

The reported rate of newborns in intensive care rose by 48% over six years. However, an unknown part of this increase is due to inconsistencies in data reporting.

The percentage of two-year-old children fully immunized is much higher than previously reported due to a new data source and methodology. These data are from the National Immunization Survey, a nationwide phone survey of vaccination information with verification from health care provider records. The 1994 and 1996 immunization rates are considered statistically equivalent.

5. EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN ARIZONA

	1996 Number	1990 Rate	1996 Rate	Percentage Rate Change
Women with inadequate prenatal care	5,109	9.8%	6.8%	-30.6%
Low birthweight babies (less than 2,501 grams)	5,074	6.5%	6.8%	4.6%
Very low birthweight babies (less than 1,501 grams)	886	1.3%	1.2%	-7.7%
Newborns in intensive care	4,462	4.0%	5.9%	47.5%
Fully immunized two-year olds	50,590	77%*	72%	no significant difference
State approved child care spaces	125,027	11.1%	14.2%	27.9%
Children receiving child care subsidies	30,645	2.8%	3.5%	25.0%
Available tax-funded preschool slots	26,723*	11.4%▲	18.9%*	65.8%

◆1994 *1996/97 ▲1990/91 school year

Research from fields as various as criminology, psychology, and education finds that strong preschool programs coupled with family support decrease school failure, out-of-wedlock births, and delinquency.

Child Care and Preschool

Finding affordable, high-quality child care remains a challenge for families in Arizona. It is impossible to fully assess the extent of this problem because home child care for fewer than five children remains unregulated. There is no way to measure its availability, affordability, or quality. The rate of available child care spaces with some state approval or certification rose 28% between 1990 and 1996.

Due to federal mandates and federal funding with state matching dollars, the availability of child care subsidies rose by 25% between 1990 and 1996. Unfortunately, the buying power of subsides dropped significantly at the same time. According to the Child Care Local Market Rate Surveys published by the Child Care Administration at the Department of Economic Security, the statewide median cost of preschool-aged care at child care centers increased 36% between 1990 and 1996. The maximum subsidy rates did not increase at all. The maximum subsidy rate now covers only 86% of the median cost of care. A Maricopa County single parent working full-time at the federal poverty level ($6.20 per hour) would have to pay nearly a fifth of her gross income for child care — $2,400 a year — for two preschool-aged children, even after the subsidy payment.

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An infusion of both state and federal funds has increased the availability of comprehensive preschool programs for disadvantaged children in Arizona. Research from fields as various as criminology, psychology, and education finds that strong preschool programs coupled with family support decrease school failure, out-of-wedlock births, and delinquency.[9] In 1991, there were spaces available for 11% of Arizona's three- and four year-old children, rising to 19% in 1997. We may see this increase erode in the future because state funding has been combined into a block grant which school districts can use for other programs.

CHILD HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health Insurance

The percentage of Arizona children with no health insurance continues to climb and remains one of the highest rates in the nation. As shown in Table 6, an estimated 12.8% of children were uninsured in 1989 and that grew to 14.0% in 1997.

The state's poorest children are eligible for health care coverage through AHCCCS. Yet the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C. estimates that in Arizona and throughout the country at least one-third of the eligible children are not enrolled.

Arizona has a tremendous opportunity to reverse the widening gap in children's health care coverage. New federal legislation makes millions of federal dollars available to states that contribute matching funds for children's health care. By combining this with implementation of the 1994 tobacco tax initiative and the 1996 initiative to expand AHCCCS, we can make a profound impact on this critical risk factor.

6. CHILD HEALTH AND SAFETY IN ARIZONA

	1996 Number	1990 Rate	1996 Rate	Percentage Rate Change
Children with no health care coverage	200,000**	12.8%*	14.0%**	9.4%
Infant deaths	576	8.7 per 1000	7.7 per 1000	-11.5%
Child deaths (1-14)	304	33.0 per 100,000	32.3 per 100,000	-2.1%
Gun-related deaths (0-19)	131	5.9 per 100,000	9.9 per 100,000	67.8%
Drownings (0-4)	27	5.8 per 100,000	8.0 per 100,000	37.9%
Reported cases of STDs (0-19)	5,087	4.3 per 1000	3.8 per 1000	-11.6%
Diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS (0-19)	12	1.6 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000***	-37.5%

Child Deaths

The infant death rate dropped by 12% between 1990 and 1996, and the death rate of children aged 1-14 dropped 2%. The rate of gun-related deaths was much higher in 1996 than in 1990, but has fallen slightly since 1994. The rate of deaths due to drowning continues to climb.

Sexually Transmitted Disease

The reported rate of sexually transmitted disease declined by 12%, and the rate of youth diagnosed with HIV or AIDS dropped by 38%.

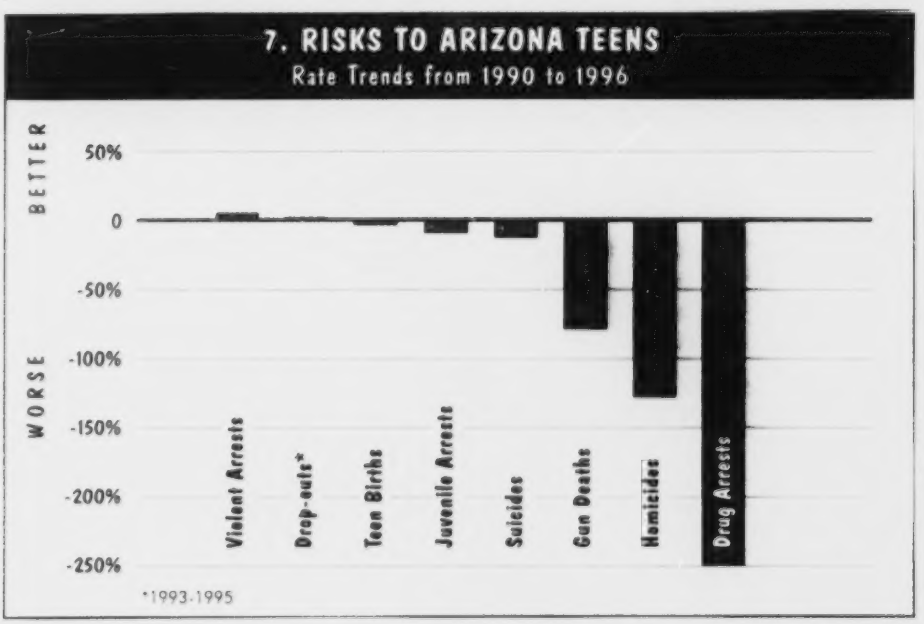
TEENS AT RISK

In our last report, 1994 data on Arizona's adolescent population showed dramatic and alarming trends. Chart 7 illustrates the need for continued concern. Teens experienced slight improvements in some risk indicators between 1990 and 1996, but dramatic deterioration in most indicators. The good news is that on a number of risk indicators, including the teen birth rate and suicide rate, the negative trends for teens have taken a small turn for the better between 1994 and 1996.

Education

Almost one of every eight high school students dropped out in 1995.

Due to methodology changes and a lag time in data compilation, the available comparison years for Arizona's school drop-out rate are 1993 and 1995. During that two-year period, the drop-out rate improved slightly, as displayed in Table 8. The 1995 overall drop-out rate for grades 7-12 was 9%, while the drop-out rate for grades 9-12 in particular was 12%. This means that almost one of every eight high school students dropped out in 1995. Census data show that Arizona has the highest rate of teenagers who are school drop-outs in the nation.[3]



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8. TEENS AT RISK IN ARIZONA

	1996 Number	1990 Rate	1996 Rate	Percentage Rate Change
Teens dropped out of school	29,298*	9.0%**	8.8%*	-2.2%
Births to teens (girls aged 10-17)	4,556	18.2 per 1000	18.9 per 1000	3.8%
Teen deaths (15-19)	353	90.5 per 100,000	114.7 per 100,000	26.7%
Gun Related Deaths (15-19)	113	20.5 per 100,000	36.7 per 100,000	79.0%
Teen homicides	75	10.7 per 100,000	24.4 per 100,000	128.0%
Teen suicides	56	16.1 per 100,000	18.2 per 100,000	13.0%

*1994/95 school year **1992/93 school year

Births To Teens

The teen birth rate was only slightly higher in 1996 than in 1990, after peaking in 1994. More than 4,500 babies were born in 1996 to mothers younger than 18, putting them at risk for poverty and intense family stress. In 1994, Arizona had the eighth highest rate of births to teens in the nation.[9]

Teen Deaths

Arizona teenagers were murdered at a much higher rate in 1996 than in 1990, but the rate was down slightly from 1994. The teen suicide rate was 13% higher in 1996 than in 1990, but, again, had fallen since 1994. The overall teen death rate continued to rise between 1994 and 1996. The rate of teens killed by guns also continued to climb between 1994 and 1996, reaching a dramatic 79% increase between 1990 and 1996. In its fourth annual review of individual child deaths, the Arizona Child Fatality Review Team cites youth access to guns as a major contributing factor in both violence-related deaths and accidental deaths.[10]

JUVENILE CRIME

Arrests

Table 9 shows that the rate of juvenile arrests has grown 10% between 1990 and 1996. These arrests cover a wide range of violations including disorderly conduct, drug and alcohol possession, and curfew violations.

The arrest rate for violent crime fell by 5% between 1990 and 1996 — a somewhat surprising statistic given the growing concern about youth violence. The arrest rate for runaway and curfew violations, on the other hand, grew by 41%,

9. ARIZONA YOUTHS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM
(Includes youths aged 8-17)

	1996 Number	1990 Rate	1996 Rate	Percentage Rate Change
Juvenile arrests▲	73,047	10.3%	11.3%	9.7%
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes▲	2,239	3.7 per 1000	3.5 per 1000	-5.4%
Juvenile arrests for runaway and curfew violation▲	17,596	19.2 per 1000	27.1 per 1000	41.1%
Juvenile arrests for drug crimes▲	5,436	2.4 per 1000	8.4 per 1000	250.0%
Juveniles committed to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	1,288	2.3 per 1000*	2.0 per 1000	-13.0%
Average monthly juvenile population in secure care	562	9.6 per 10,000*	8.8 per 10,000	-8.3%
Juvenile cases transferred to adult court	900	1.6%	3.5%	118.8%

*1993 rate ▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

accounting for almost one quarter of all arrests in 1996. This change can largely be attributed to increased enforcement. The arrest rate for drug crimes more than tripled between 1990 and 1996, also partially due to increased enforcement. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes and drug crimes, combined, remain only ten percent of all juvenile arrests.

Dispositions

Once a youth is referred to juvenile court, there are a variety of possible dispositions for his or her case. In fiscal year 1996, about half of the juveniles referred were assigned to diversion programs or placed on probation.* Other possible dispositions include dismissal, transfer to adult court, or commitment to the Department of Juvenile Corrections.

The rate of commitment to the Department of Juvenile Corrections fell by 13% between 1990 and 1996. The average monthly juvenile population in secure care (the equivalent of juvenile prison) fell by 9%. The drop in this indicator was largely determined by secure care population caps legally set through a court settlement in the *Johnson vs. Upchurch* consent decree. Subsequently, the average monthly population in secure care rose between 1994 and 1996, partly due to an increase in the population cap during 1996.

The rate of juvenile cases transferred to adult court more than doubled. This increase occurred prior to the effective date of Proposition 102, which automatically places specified juvenile cases in adult court. The increase in transfers to adult court that occurred while juvenile arrests for violent crimes declined indicates a policy shift in our response to juvenile crime.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Table 10 displays risk indicators on child abuse and neglect in 1991 and 1997. The rate of reports of child abuse and neglect to Child Protective Services (CPS) rose 29%. Although all of these reports need investigation according to CPS, the investigation rate fell from 89% in 1991 to 84% in 1997. In 1997, 5,958 reports of abuse and neglect went uninvestigated, leaving more than 10,000 children in potentially dangerous situations. A lack of staff resources is the only reason CPS failed to investigate these reports.

In 1997, 5,958 reports of abuse and neglect went uninvestigated, leaving more than 10,000 children in potentially dangerous situations. A lack of staff resources is the only reason CPS failed to investigate.

It is unclear why CPS investigations are substantiating cases of abuse and neglect at a lower rate than 1991. Perhaps community outreach has led to increased reporting of rotten family circumstances that fall short of actual abuse or neglect. Or perhaps CPS has altered its standards or practices in ways that limit or better clarify the finding of abuse or neglect. Despite this decline, however, the rate of substantiated cases in Arizona's overall child population increased by 9%.

A lack of resources continues to limit the help we offer families even after abuse or neglect is confirmed. During fiscal year 1997, three-quarters of the investigated reports with valid findings of abuse or neglect were closed immediately after inves-

10. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN ARIZONA

	1997 Number	1991 Rate	1997 Rate	Percentage Rate Change
CPS reports of child abuse and neglect per child population	38,229	2.4%	3.1%	29.2%
CPS reports investigated per report	32,103	88.7%	84.4%	-4.8%
CPS reports substantiated (per investigated report)	14,394	52.4%	44.8%	-14.5%
CPS reports substantiated (per child population)	14,394	1.1%	1.2%	9.1%
Children in foster care per child population	6,026	4.0 per 1000	5.0 per 1000	25.0%
Deaths from abuse and neglect per child population	18	0.7 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	100.0%

Rate and rate changes shown have been rounded to the nearest tenth.

tigation.[7] Circumstances in these families were not dangerous enough to warrant placing the children in foster care. Yet, these families are severely troubled and we know that without some help problems could escalate to emergency proportions. Once these cases are closed, there is no further monitoring or follow-up to make sure families get help and children are safe.

There are other signs of increasing family crisis. The rate of children reported killed from abuse or neglect doubled. The rate of Arizona children living in foster care grew by 25% — much faster than the rate of increase in substantiated cases. This growth in foster care signals that the severity of child abuse and neglect is intensifying. Our system is failing to prevent crises and failing to help victimized children move quickly into safe, permanent homes.

WHY DO THESE NUMBERS MATTER?

CHILD POVERTY: Growing up in very low-income families has been associated with multiple negative outcomes for children including less adequate prenatal care, low birthweight, higher infant mortality, slower cognitive development, lower levels of school readiness, and lower levels of educational and socioeconomic attainment as adults.

PRENATAL CARE: The receipt of early and ongoing prenatal care increases the chances of delivering healthy, full-term, normal weight babies. Adequate prenatal care can encourage good health habits during pregnancy and can lead to early detection of medical problems. Early care can also reduce health care costs for neonatal intensive care.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT: The weight of a baby at birth is a key indicator of newborn health, and is directly related to infant survival, health and development. Low birthweight infants are more likely to die during the first year. They are also more likely to experience disabilities and health problems that interfere with normal development and progress in school, such as mental retardation, visual and hearing defects, and learning difficulties.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Immunizing children on time effectively protects them from a host of debilitating and sometimes deadly childhood diseases. The Federal Public Health Service currently recommends that children receive six different vaccines (most requiring multiple doses) before children start school, most before age 2. Regular immunizations can help connect the family with an ongoing source of quality health care, so that immunization status may also be a proxy measure for access to well-child care.

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WHY DO THESE NUMBERS MATTER?*

TAX-FUNDED COMPREHENSIVE PRESCHOOL: Children's experiences during early childhood affect later success in school. Research shows that high-quality early childhood programs and parenting education can improve the development of young children who are at risk of early failure in school due to poverty or dysfunctional family and home life. Longitudinal studies indicate that young adults who participated in these programs as children have increased their chance of success at school and work.

STATE APPROVED CHILD CARE SPACES: When parents go to work, children need to be cared for in settings that protect their physical health and safety, provide plenty of individual attention, and support their social and intellectual development. Since welfare reform requires that more parents enter the workforce or perform community service, even more child care spaces will be needed. Child care in some home settings with fewer than five children is not regulated. Although regulations cannot ensure high-quality child care, they are an important step as an establishment of minimum standards.

STATE AND FEDERAL CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES: The affordability of child care is a significant issue for many families. Poor families spend a substantially greater proportion of their income on child care than do nonpoor families. (A minimum wage job pays less than $11,000 per year. Child care for one child in Arizona costs between $3,000 and $6,000 per year.) A 1994 study by the U.S. General Accounting Office concludes that child care subsidies are important for the success of efforts to move low-income mothers from welfare to work.

CHILDREN WITH NO HEALTH INSURANCE: Without access to doctors, hospitals, and medicine, children often suffer disease, disability, and death — much of it preventable. Children in upper-income families generally have private health care coverage. Children in the poorest families are eligible for health insurance through Medicaid, but many aren't enrolled due to social and practical barriers. As the availability and affordability of employer-based health insurance diminishes, more and more children in low-income, working families have no health care coverage.

GUN-RELATED DEATHS: Accidental shootings result from parental neglect of safety precautions. The rising number of children killed by guns reflects the fact that young people are using guns to commit crimes and to settle interpersonal grievances more than ever before. Teenagers report easy access to guns and fear of becoming victims of violence.

WHY DO THESE NUMBERS MATTER?

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE, AIDS and HIV AMONG TEENS: Sexually-transmitted diseases are indicators of adolescent risk-taking behaviors: unprotected sexual activity and drug use. They are also a measure of teens' access to health education, health care, and family planning services.

TEEN BIRTHS: Single teen parenthood is a predictor of future economic hardship for both parent and child. Young mothers are less likely to finish high school, and are far more likely to be poor, unmarried, and welfare dependent than those giving birth at a later age. Children born to single teen mothers are more likely to be disadvantaged as children and as adults.

TEEN HOMICIDE: Murders of teens is an indicator of teen delinquent behavior, hostility and anger. It is also a reflection of access to firearms. Most teenage murder victims are killed by other teenagers. Drug use is commonly associated with teen homicides.

TEEN SUICIDE: The incidence of teen suicide is an indicator of overwhelming teenage stress and inadequate mental health and community and family support.

SCHOOL DROPOUTS: Youth who drop out of school are significantly less likely to be regularly employed well into their twenties and are more likely to be incarcerated. The jobs available to those who have dropped out generally are unstable, do not pay well, and have limited opportunities for upward mobility. Also, the school dropout rate diminishes the ability of employers to find educated, proficient employees.

JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIME: Arrest of youthful offenders for violent crimes is a measure of anti-social and self-destructive behavior.

JUVENILES PLACED IN CUSTODY OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS: This measure reflects a failure of communities to prevent youth crisis and a lack of response to warning signals. The majority of youth committed to juvenile corrections have experienced school failure and drug or alcohol problems. Many have been physically or sexually abused.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: Child abuse or neglect can result in physical harm, death, or profound developmental and behavioral problems. Abused and neglected children are at greater risk of becoming delinquents and of mistreating their own children. The number of substantiated cases of abuse or neglect suggests the extent to which children's security is threatened rather than protected by the adults on whom they are most dependent.

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WHY DO THESE NUMBERS MATTER?

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: The number of children in foster care reflects the social and family conditions which pose substantial risk to children. Family instability, poverty, crime, violence, homelessness, substance abuse, and serious illness may contribute to the need to find alternative care.

These descriptions are taken from: *The State of America's Children Yearbook 1995*, Children's Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.; *Just the Facts*, National Commission on Children, Washington, D.C., 1993; *Finding the Data: A Start-Up List of Outcome Measures with Annotations*, Improved Outcomes for Children Project, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, D.C., 1995; *Firearms Among Children in Arizona*, Phoenix Children's Hospital, 1993; *Changing the Odds for Arizona's Youth*, Children's Action Alliance, 1996.

chapter 2

County Findings

OVERVIEW

In this section we report eleven risk indicators on a county-by-county basis. Breaking down the statewide data geographically demonstrates that no generalizations can be made that accurately describe all communities in our state. In fact, the variation across the state is striking. Not only are there wide variations among the counties for each indicator, but the trends over time vary considerably as well. We have noted in the following pages and in Appendix 5 any technical data issues that contribute to the variance among counties. But the multi-layered contributing factors to risk indicators and trends in each county must ultimately be identified by the Arizonans who live there. It is our hope that the data displayed here will help community leaders, organizations, and concerned citizens focus attention and action on the particular problems and solutions in their own communities.

COUNTY OVERVIEW

RISK INDICATORS FOR ARIZONA CHILDREN BY COUNTY 1996

	Receiving AFDC	Receiving Food Stamps	Free/ Reduced Price Lunch (1996/97)	Killed by Guns per 100,000	Births to Teens per 1,000	School Drop-outs (1994/95)
APACHE	21.6%	48.3%	73.5%	20.4	12.3	12.0%
COCHISE	12.5%	25.8%	47.9%	8.6	17.3	11.8%
COCONINO	9.0%	22.7%	45.0%	8.1	14.1	9.9%
GILA	15.8%	32.4%	56.4%	7.4	18.2	10.8%
GRAHAM	12.9%	26.8%	50.7%	9.1	16.4	6.9%
GREENLEE	6.1%	11.9%	26.3%	0	25.3	3.9%
LA PAZ	13.9%	28.4%	63.0%	0	14.4	11.8%
MARICOPA	8.0%	14.9%	40.9%	9.3	19.8	7.7%
MOHAVE	12.5%	27.1%	43.0%	15.5	21.9	13.7%
NAVAJO	17.7%	36.6%	63.8%	5.9	16.4	7.2%
PIMA	10.0%	20.6%	49.1%	9.3	15.8	9.8%
PINAL	15.8%	27.0%	56.5%	15.8	25.1	11.2%
SANTA CRUZ	8.7%	24.8%	62.6%	0	19.2	9.0%
YAVAPAI	7.0%	15.3%	42.3%	6.2	14.1	9.7%
YUMA	12.5%	29.7%	61.6%	0	26.1	10.9%
ARIZONA	10.2%	20.1%	46.0%	9.9	18.9	9.8%

COUNTY OVERVIEW

RISK INDICATORS FOR ARIZONA CHILDREN BY COUNTY 1996

	Juvenile Arrests*	Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes* per 1,000	Juveniles to Dept of Juv Corrections per 1,000	Reports of Child Abuse** (1997)	Children in Foster Care per 1,000 (1997)
APACHE	3.2%	1.0	0.1	2.6%	0.7
COCHISE	10.0%	1.4	3.7	3.1%	5.0
COCONINO	13.2%	4.9	1.2	2.6%	1.9
GILA	15.8%	3.1	3.8	3.8%	8.2
GRAHAM	9.3%	3.9	1.1	3.1%	2.6
GREENLEE	7.1%	1.7	0.6	3.1%	4.8
LA PAZ	0.9%	0	2.2	3.6%	1.7
MARICOPA	9.5%	3.4	1.6	3.0%	4.8
MOHAVE	18.5%	3.4	2.5	3.6%	5.2
NAVAJO	7.3%	2.8	1.0	2.6%	1.9
PIMA	18.1%	4.3	3.0	3.7%	7.4
PINAL	13.1%	4.3	2.3	3.8%	4.9
SANTA CRUZ	5.3%	2.8	2.0	3.1%	2.0
YAVAPAI	13.3%	2.5	1.1	2.6%	4.9
YUMA	8.7%	2.8	1.7	3.6%	3.3
ARIZONA	11.3%	3.5	2.0	3.1%	5.0

* Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.
** Rates for Reports of Child Abuse are by DES District. Except for Pima and Maricopa, each district contains two or more counties.

APACHE COUNTY

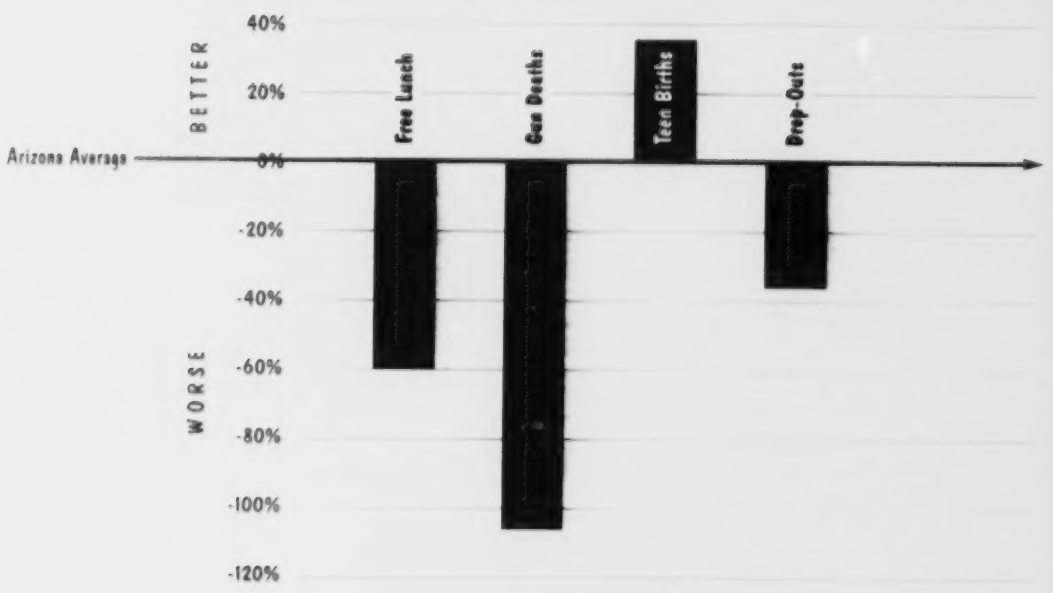
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

26,843	Children
5,756	Children in families receiving AFDC
12,881	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
11,395	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
6	Children killed by guns
71	Births to teens
901	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	APACHE CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990 t0 1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	worse	worse
Births to teens	better	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better

HOW DOES APACHE COUNTY COMPARE?



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APACHE COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR APACHE COUNTY CHILDREN

	Apache 1990 Rate	Apache 1996 Rate	Apache Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	17.9%	21.6%	20.7%	10.2%	15
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	38.0%	48.3%	27.1%	20.1%	15
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	66.8%	73.5%*	10.0%	46.0%*	15
Gun-related child deaths	0	20.4 per 100,000	100.0%	9.9 per 100,000	15
Births to teens	16.6 per 1000	12.3 per 1000	-25.9%	18.9 per 1000	1
School drop-outs	10.4%**	12.0%***	15.4%	8.8%***	14
Juvenile arrests▼	2.0%	3.2%	60.0%	11.3% ^	N/A
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes▼	0.4 per 1000	1.0 per 1000	150.0%	3.5 ^ per 1000	N/A
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections▼	0.4** per 1000	0.1 per 1000	-75.0%	2.0 per 1000	N/A
Reports of child abuse	2.4%◆	2.6%**	8.3%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care▲ (1991 and 1997)	0.4 per 1000	0.7 per 1000	75.0%	5.0 per 1000	N/A

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▼Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities. Because American Indian youth made up 80% of the Apache County child population in 1990, these figures do not reflect true juvenile crime trends in the county.

▲Data do not reflect out-of-home placements made by Native American tribal support systems.

◆Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 3, which includes Apache, Coconino, Navajo, and Yavapai counties.

^Data no not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

COCHISE COUNTY

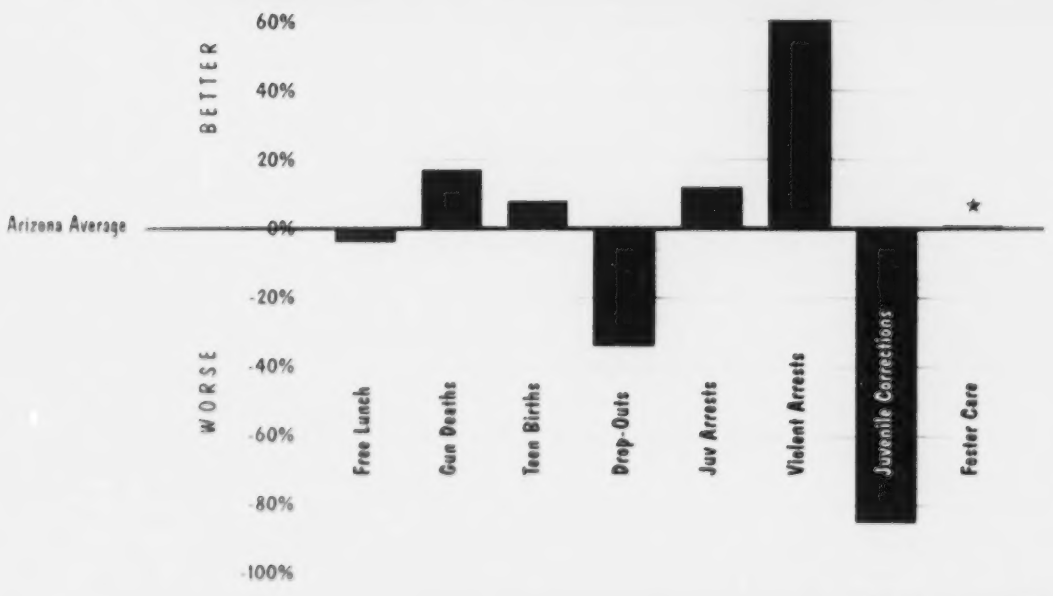
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

31,315	**Children**
3,860	**Children in families receiving AFDC**
7,985	**Children in families receiving Food Stamps**
9,745	**Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)**
3	**Children killed by guns**
119	**Births to teens**
1,267	**School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)**
1,738	**Juvenile arrests** (data incomplete)
25	**Juvenile arrests for violent crimes** (data incomplete)
64	**Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections**
158	**Children in foster care (1997)**

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	COCHISE CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990 to 1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	worse	worse
Births to teens	better	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	better	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	better	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993 to 1996)	worse	better
Foster care (1991 to 1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES COCHISE COUNTY COMPARE?



★ Same as state average

COCHISE COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR COCHISE COUNTY CHILDREN

	Cochise 1990 Rate	Cochise 1996 Rate	Cochise Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	9.1%	12.5%	37.4%	10.2%	7
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	18.7%	25.8%	38.0%	20.1%	7
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	34.9%	47.9%*	37.2%	46.0%*	6
Gun-related child deaths	6.5 per 100,000	8.6 per 100,000	32.3%	9.9 per 100,000	9
Births to teens	17.8 per 1000	17.3 per 1000	-2.8%	18.9 per 1000	8
School drop-outs	6.6%**	11.8%***	78.8%	8.8%***	12
Juvenile arrests	12.9%	10.0% ^	-22.5%	11.3% ^	7▲
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	3.0 per 1000	1.4 ^ per 1000	-53.3%	3.5 ^ per 1000	2▲
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	2.7** per 1000	3.7 per 1000	37.0%	2.0 per 1000	11▲
Reports of child abuse	4.5%◆	3.1%**	-31.1%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	3.6 per 1000	5.0 per 1000	38.9%	5.0 per 1000	9▲

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

^ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

▲ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

◆ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 6, which includes Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties.

COCONINO COUNTY

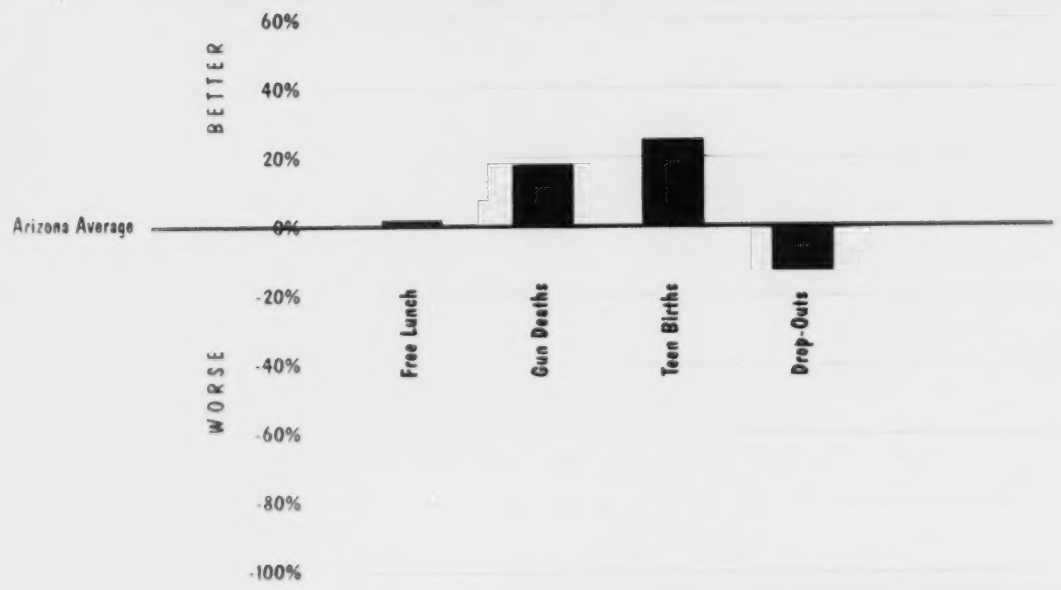
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

32,878	Children
2,933	Children in families receiving AFDC
7,374	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
9,071	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
3	Children killed by guns
99	Births to teens
990	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	COCONINO CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990 to 1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	better	worse
Births to teens	same	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better

HOW DOES COCONINO COUNTY COMPARE?



COCONINO COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR COCONINO COUNTY CHILDREN

	Coconino 1990 Rate	Coconino 1996 Rate	Coconino Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	6.2%	9.0%	45.2%	10.2%	5
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	16.0%	22.7%	41.9%	20.1%	5
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	34.3%	45.0%*	31.2%	46.0%*	5
Gun-related child deaths	8.5 per 100,000	8.1 per 100,000	-4.7%	9.9 per 100,000	8
Births to teens	14.1 per 1000	14.1 per 1000	0%	18.9 per 1000	2
School drop-outs	6.8%**	9.9%***	45.6%	8.8%***	8
Juvenile arrests▲	12.5%◆	13.2%◆	5.6%	11.3%◆	N/A
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes▲	2.7◆ per 1000	4.9◆ per 1000	81.5%	3.5◆ per 1000	N/A
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections▲	1.1** per 1000	1.2 per 1000	9.1%	2.0 per 1000	N/A
Reports of child abuse	2.4%▼	2.6%*▼	8.3%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care▲ (1991 and 1997)	1.8 per 1000	1.9 per 1000	5.6%	5.0 per 1000	N/A

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

◆ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

▲ Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up 41% of the Coconino child population in 1990, data do not reflect true juvenile crime trends in the county.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 3, which includes Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai.

GILA COUNTY

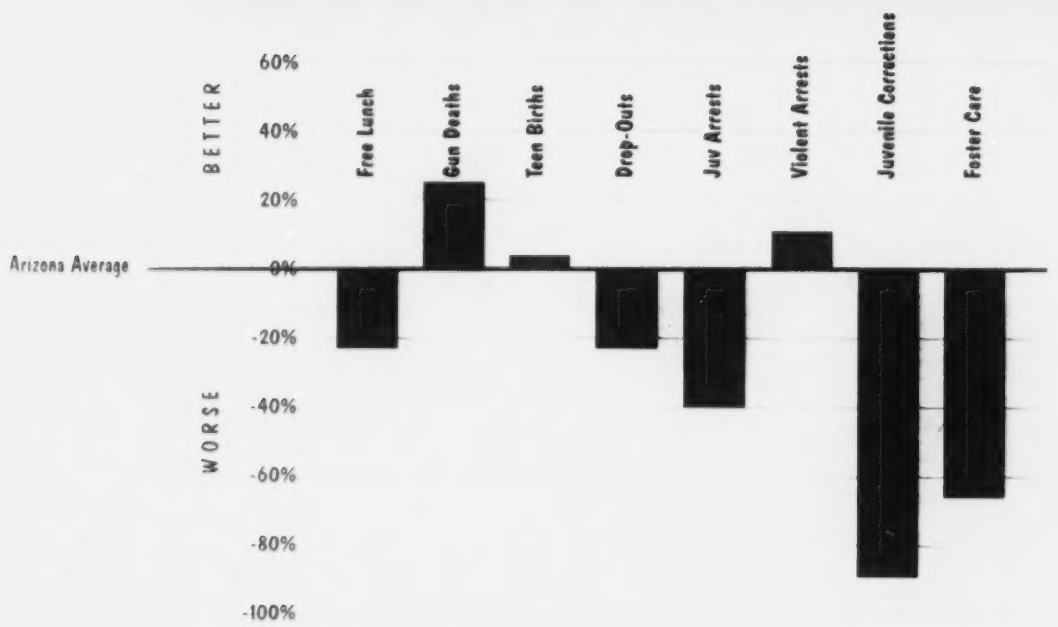
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

12,257	Children
1,916	Children in families receiving AFDC
3,938	Children in families receiving food stamps
5,500	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
1	Children killed by guns
50	Births to teens
468	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)
1,082	Juvenile arrests (data incomplete)
21	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (data incomplete)
26	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
102	Children in foster care (1997)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	GILA CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	better	worse
Births to teens	better	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	better	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	worse	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES GILA COUNTY COMPARE?



GILA COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR GILA COUNTY CHILDREN

	Gila 1990 Rate	Gila 1996 Rate	Gila Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	12.0%	15.8%	31.7%	10.2%	12
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**28.3%**	**32.4%**	**14.5%**	**20.1%**	**13**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	41.3%	56.4%*	36.6%	46.0%*	9
Gun-related child deaths	**8.5 per 100,000**	**7.4 per 100,000**	**-12.9%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**7**
Births to teens	26.1 per 1000	18.2 per 1000	-30.3%	18.9 per 1000	9
School drop-outs	**10.1%****	**10.8*****	**6.9%**	**8.8%*****	**9**
Juvenile arrests	12.3%	15.8%▲	28.5%	11.3%▲	10 ^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	**9.0 per 1000**	**3.1▲ per 1000**	**-65.6%**	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**6 ^**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	1.6** per 1000	3.8 per 1000	137.5%	2.0 per 1000	12 ^
Reports of child abuse	**4.1%▼**	**3.8%*▼**	**-7.3%**	**3.1%**	**N/A**
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	2.0 per 1000	8.2 per 1000	310.0%	5.0 per 1000	10 ^

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American Tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 5, which includes Gila and Pinal counties.

GRAHAM COUNTY

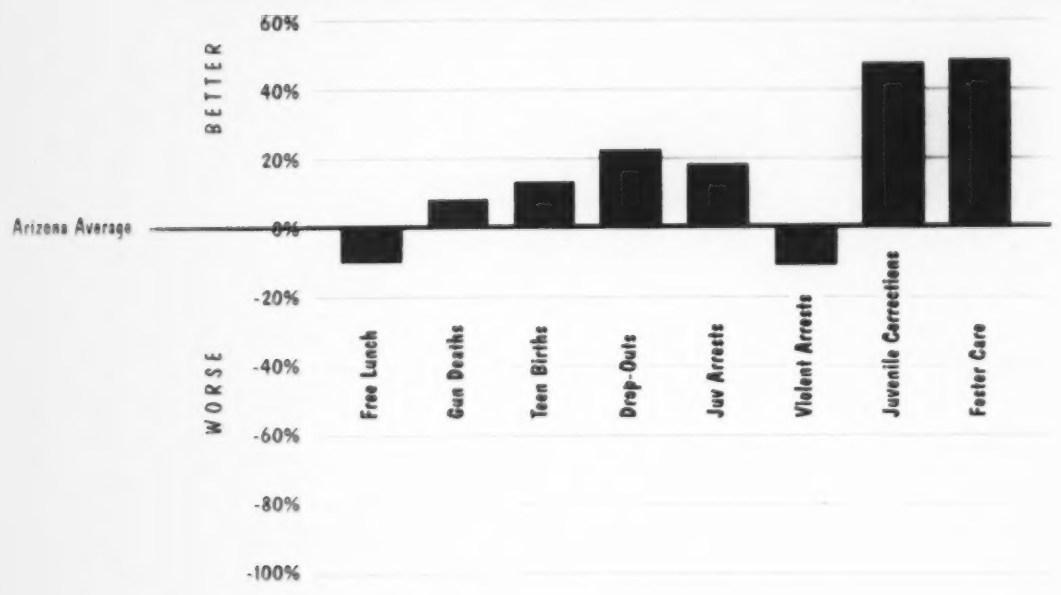
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

9,940	Children
1,270	Children in families receiving AFDC
2,642	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
3,007	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
1	Children killed by guns
36	Births to teens
194	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)
525	Juvenile arrests
22	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
6	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
26	Children in foster care (1997)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	GRAHAM CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	worse	worse
Births to teens	worse	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (1993-1996)	worse	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections	better	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES GRAHAM COUNTY COMPARE?



GRAHAM COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR GRAHAM COUNTY CHILDREN

	Graham 1990 Rate	Graham 1996 Rate	Graham Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	11.1%	12.9%	16.2%	10.2%	10
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	24.3%	26.8%	10.3%	20.1%	8
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	43.8%	50.7%*	15.8%	46.0%*	8
Gun-related child deaths	0 per 100,000	9.1 per 100,000	100%	9.9 per 100,000	10
Births to teens	12.3 per 1000	16.4 per 1000	33.3%	18.9 per 1000	6
School drop-outs	5.0%**	6.9%***	38.0%	8.8%***	2
Juvenile arrests	5.8%▲	9.3%	60.3%	11.3%▲	5^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	1.4▲ per 1000	3.9 per 1000	178.6%	3.5▲ per 1000	8^
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	2.1** per 1000	1.1 per 1000	-47.6%	2.0 per 1000	2^
Reports of child abuse	4.5%▼	3.1%*▼	-31.1%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	1.0 per 1000	2.6 per 1000	160.0%	5.0 per 1000	3^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of-home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 6, which includes Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties.

All rate and rate changes shown have been rounded to the nearest tenth.

GREENLEE COUNTY

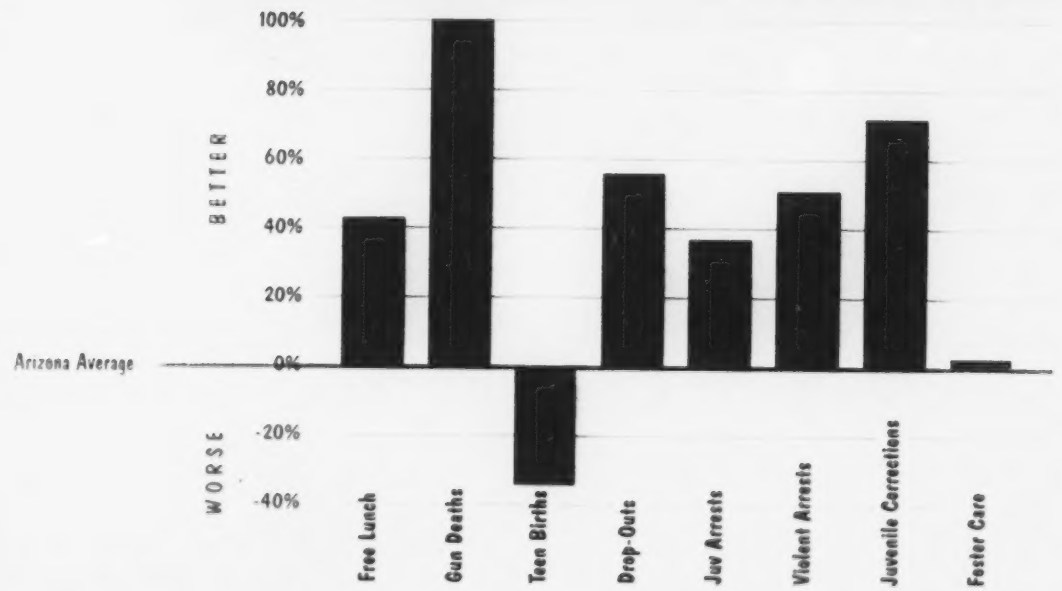
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

3,079	Children
188	Children in families receiving AFDC
365	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
590	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
0	Children killed by guns
17	Births to teens
46	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)
125	Juvenile arrests (data incomplete)
3	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (data incomplete)
1	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
15	Children in foster care (1997)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	GREENLEE CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	better	worse
Children killed by guns	same	worse
Births to teens	worse	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	worse	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	same	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	better	worse

HOW DOES GREENLEE COUNTY COMPARE?



GREENLEE COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR GREENLEE COUNTY CHILDREN

	Greenlee 1990 Rate	Greenlee 1996 Rate	Greenlee Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	7.4%	6.1%	-17.6%	10.2%	1
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**14.4%**	**11.9%**	**-17.4%**	**20.1%**	**1**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	39.6%	26.3%*	-33.6%◆	46.0%*	1
Gun-related child deaths	**0 per 100,000**	**0 per 100,000**	**0%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**1**
Births to teens	16.9 per 1000	25.3 per 1000	49.7%	18.9 per 1000	14
School drop-outs	**3.1%****	**3.9%*****	**25.8%**	**8.8%*****	**1**
Juvenile arrests	2.0%▲	7.1%▲	255.0%	11.3%▲	3^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	**0▲ per 1000**	**1.7▲ per 1000**	**100.0%**	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**3^**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	0.6** per 1000	0.6 per 1000	0%	2.0 per 1000	1^
Reports of child abuse	**4.5%▼**	**3.1%*▼**	**-31.1%**	**3.1%**	**N/A**
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	5.5 per 1000	4.8 per 1000	-12.7%	5.0 per 1000	5^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

◆ Greenlee County is the only county to show a decrease in rate of children approved. Prior to February 1994, the Morenci Unified School District did not have a cafeteria and therefore did not participate in the program. Once Morenci did participate, only 14% of the district's large student population was approved for free or reduced lunches, thereby decreasing the rate for the entire county.

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of-home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 6, which includes Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties.

LA PAZ COUNTY

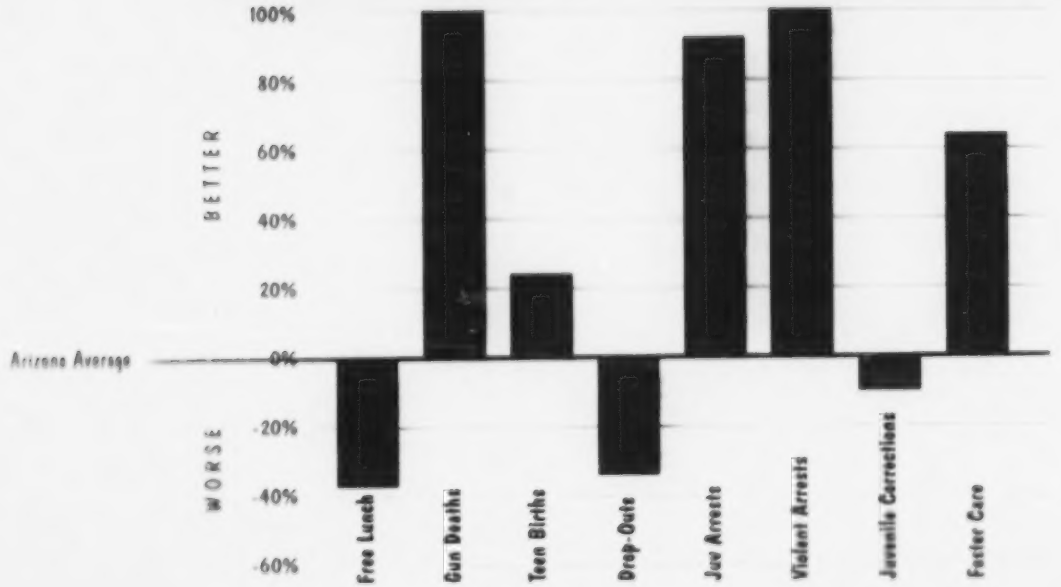
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

4,213	**Children**
562	**Children in families receiving AFDC**
1,149	**Children in families receiving Food Stamps**
1,931	**Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)**
0	**Children killed by guns**
13	**Births to teens**
180	**School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)**
20	**Juvenile arrests** (data incomplete)
0	**Juvenile arrests for violent crimes** (data incomplete)
5	**Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections**
7	**Children in foster care (1997)**

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	LA PAZ CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	better	worse
Births to teens	better	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	better	better
Juvenile arrests	better	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (1993-1996)	better	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections	better	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	better	worse

HOW DOES LA PAZ COUNTY COMPARE?



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LA PAZ COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR LA PAZ COUNTY CHILDREN

	La Paz 1990 Rate	La Paz 1996 Rate	La Paz Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	8.5%	13.9%	63.5%	10.2%	11
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**17.0%**	**28.4%**	**67.1%**	**20.1%**	**11**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	61.7%	63.0%*	2.1%	46.0%*	13
Gun-related child deaths	**25 per 100,000**	**0 per 100,000**	**-100%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**1**
Births to teens	15.8 per 1000	14.4 per 1000	-8.9%	18.9 per 1000	4
School drop-outs	**12.4%****	**11.8%*****	**-4.8%**	**8.8%*****	**12**
Juvenile arrests	4.1%▲	0.9%▲	-78.0%	11.3%▲	1^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	**2.6▲ per 1000**	**0▲ per 1000**	**-100.0%**	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**1^**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	2.9** per 1000	2.2 per 1000	-24.1%	2.0 per 1000	7^
Reports of child abuse	**4.4%▼**	**3.6%*▼**	**-18.2%**	**3.1%**	**N/A**
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	2.7 per 1000	1.7 per 1000	-37.0%	5.0 per 1000	1^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 4, which includes La Paz, Mohave, and Yuma counties.

MARICOPA COUNTY

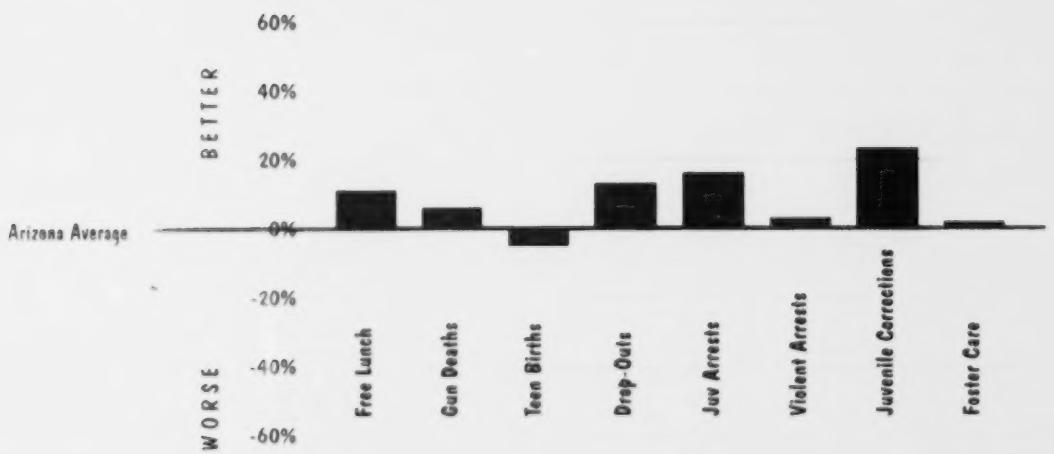
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

705,427	**Children**
61,329	**Children in families receiving AFDC**
113,696	**Children in families receiving Food Stamps**
166,234	**Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/1997)**
72	**Children killed by guns**
2,716	**Births to teens**
13,973	**School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)**
36,145	**Juvenile arrests** (data incomplete)
1,300	**Juvenile arrests for violent crimes** (data incomplete)
691	**Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections**
3,466	**Children in foster care (1997)**
21,265	**Reports of child abuse and neglect (1997)**

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	MARICOPA CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	worse	worse
Births to teens	worse	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	better	better
Juvenile arrests	better	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	better	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	better	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES MARICOPA COUNTY COMPARE?



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MARICOPA COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR MARICOPA COUNTY CHILDREN

	Maricopa 1990 Rate	Maricopa 1996 Rate	Maricopa Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	7.3%	8.0%	9.6%	10.2%	3
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**12.7%**	**14.9%**	**17.3%**	**20.1%**	**2**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	30.7%	40.9%*	33.2%	46.0%*	2
Gun-related child deaths	**6.2 per 100,000**	**9.3 per 100,000**	**50.0%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**11**
Births to teens	18.8 per 1000	19.8 per 1000	5.3%	18.9 per 1000	11
School drop-outs	**9.2%****	**7.7%*****	**-16.3%**	**8.8%*****	**4**
Juvenile arrests	10.1%	9.5%▲	-5.9%	11.3%▲	6 ^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	**4.4 per 1000**	**3.4▲ per 1000**	**-22.7%**	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**7 ^**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	2.3** per 1000	1.6 per 1000	-30.4%	2.0 per 1000	4 ^
Reports of child abuse	**3.4%**	**3.0%***	**-11.8%**	**3.1%**	**N/A**
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	3.8 per 1000	4.8 per 1000	26.3%	5.0 per 1000	5 ^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

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MOHAVE COUNTY

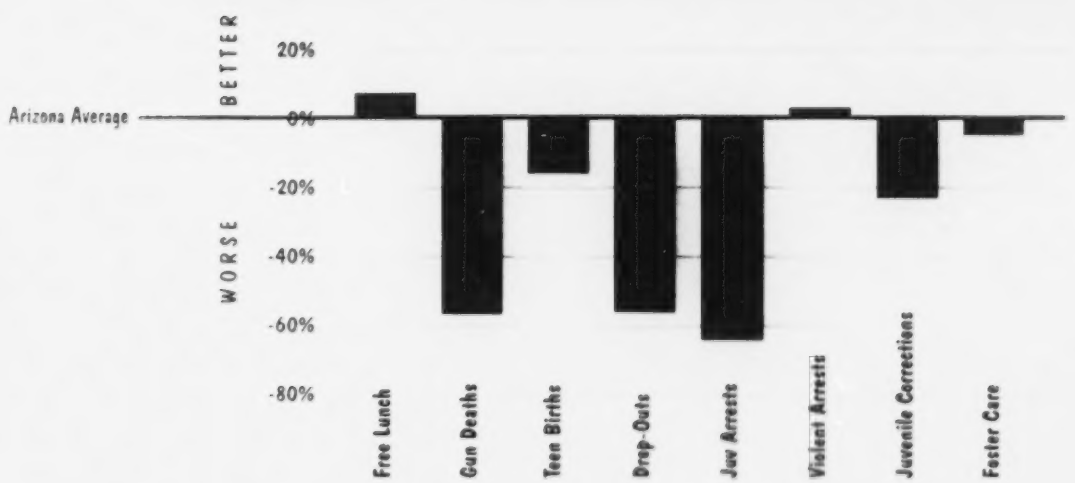
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

29,480	Children
3,638	Children in families receiving AFDC
7,921	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
7,886	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
5	Children killed by guns
127	Births to teens
1,328	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)
2,864	Juvenile arrests
52	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
38	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
155	Children in foster care (1997)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	MOHAVE CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	worse	worse
Births to teens	worse	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (1993-1996)	better	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections	worse	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES MOHAVE COUNTY COMPARE?



MOHAVE COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR MOHAVE COUNTY CHILDREN

	Mohave 1990 Rate	Mohave 1996 Rate	Mohave Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	5.5%	12.5%	127.3%	10.2%	7
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**13.4%**	**27.1%**	**102.2%**	**20.1%**	**10**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	26.2%	43.0%*	64.1%	46.0%*	4
Gun-related child deaths	**4.3 per 100,000**	**15.5 per 100,000**	**260.5%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**13**
Births to teens	19.9 per 1000	21.9 per 1000	10.1%	18.9 per 1000	12
School drop-outs	**11.0%****	**13.7%*****	**24.5%**	**8.8%*****	**15**
Juvenile arrests	15.0%	18.5%	23.3%	11.3%▲	12 ^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	**5.1 per 1000**	**3.4 per 1000**	**-33.3%**	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**7 ^**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	2.1** per 1000	2.5 per 1000	19.0%	2.0 per 1000	9 ^
Reports of child abuse	**4.4%▼**	**3.6%*▼**	**-18.2%**	**3.1%**	**N/A**
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	2.4 per 1000	5.2 per 1000	116.7%	5.0 per 1000	10 ^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 4, which includes La Paz, Mohave, and Yuma counties.

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

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NAVAJO COUNTY

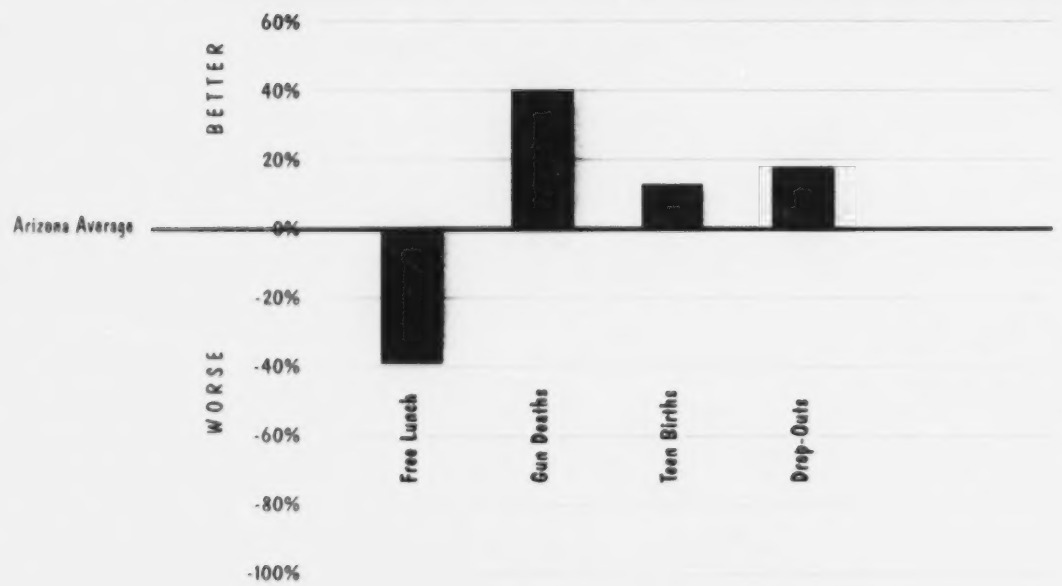
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

31,062	Children
5,438	Children in families receiving AFDC
11,263	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
13,297	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
2	Children killed by guns
103	Births to teens
643	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	NAVAJO CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	better	worse
Births to teens	better	worse
School drop-out (1993-1995)	worse	better

HOW DOES NAVAJO COUNTY COMPARE?



NAVAJO COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR NAVAJO COUNTY CHILDREN

	Navajo 1990 Rate	Navajo 1996 Rate	Navajo Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	9.7%	17.7%	82.5%	10.2%	14
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**24.7%**	**36.6%**	**48.2%**	**20.1%**	**14**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	56.7%	63.8%*	12.5%	46.0%*	14
Gun-related child deaths	**12.3 per 100,000**	**5.9 per 100,000**	**-52.0%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**5**
Births to teens	19.3 per 1000	16.4 per 1000	-15.0%	18.9 per 1000	6
School drop-outs	**6.6%****	**7.2%*****	**9.1%**	**8.8%*****	**3**
Juvenile arrests▲	5.5%	7.3%◆	32.7%	11.3%◆	N/A
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes▲	**1.4 per 1000**	**2.8 per 1000**	**100%**	**3.5◆ per 1000**	**N/A**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections▲	0.2** per 1000	1.0 per 1000	400.0%	2.0 per 1000	N/A
Reports of child abuse	**2.4%▼**	**2.6%*▼**	**8.3%**	**3.1%**	**N/A**
Foster care▲ (1991 and 1997)	1.8 per 1000	1.9 per 1000	5.6%	5.0 per 1000	N/A

*1997 rate **1993 rate *** 1995 rate

◆ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

▲ Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up 59% of the Navajo County child population in 1990, data do not reflect true juvenile crime trends in the county.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 3, which includes Apache, Coconino, Navajo, and Yavapai counties.

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PIMA COUNTY

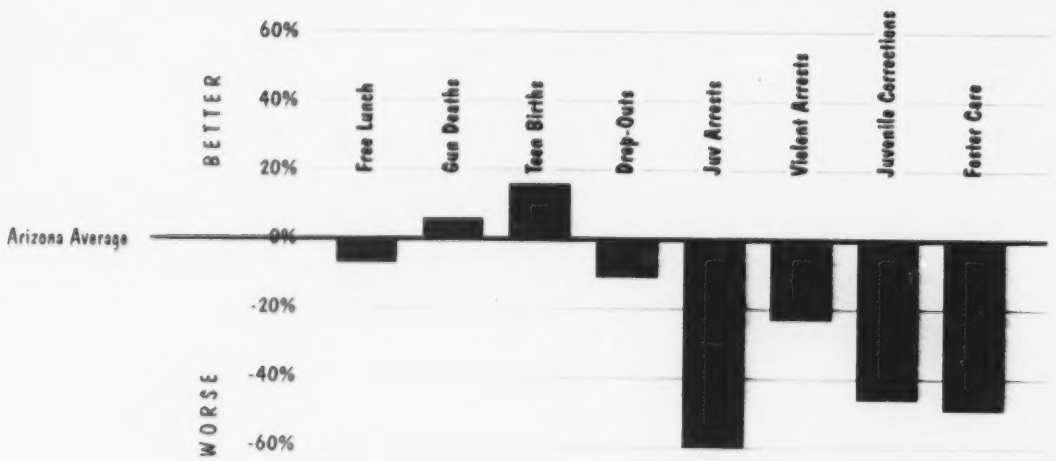
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

194,999	**Children**
19,270	**Children in families receiving AFDC**
39,601	**Children in families receiving Food Stamps**
58,780	**Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)**
20	**Children killed by guns**
644	**Births to teens**
5,307	**School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)**
18,891	**Juvenile arrests** (data incomplete)
444	**Juvenile arrests for violent crimes** (data incomplete)
303	**Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections**
1,454	**Children in foster care (1997)**
7,325	**Reports of child abuse and neglect (1997)**

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	PIMA CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	worse	worse
Births to teens	better	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	worse	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	better	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	same	worse

HOW DOES PIMA COUNTY COMPARE?



PIMA COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR PIMA COUNTY CHILDREN

	Pima 1990 Rate	Pima 1996 Rate	Pima Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	8.2%	10.0%	22.0%	10.2%	6
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	16.2%	20.6%	27.2%	20.1%	4
Children approved for free/reduced school lunch	38.4%	49.1%*	27.9%	46.0%*	7
Gun-related child deaths	5.3 per 100,000	9.3 per 100,000	75.5%	9.9 per 100,000	11
Births to teens	16.5 per 1000	15.8 per 1000	-4.2%	18.9 per 1000	5
School drop-outs	9.3%**	9.8%***	5.4%	8.8%***	7
Juvenile arrests	12.7%	18.1%▲	42.5%	11.3%▲	11^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	3.1 per 1000	4.3▲ per 1000	38.7%	3.5▲ per 1000	9^
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	3.7** per 1000	3.0 per 1000	-18.9%	2.0 per 1000	10^
Reports of child abuse	5.5%	3.7%*	-32.7%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	7.4 per 1000	7.4 per 1000	0%	5.0 per 1000	11^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

PINAL COUNTY

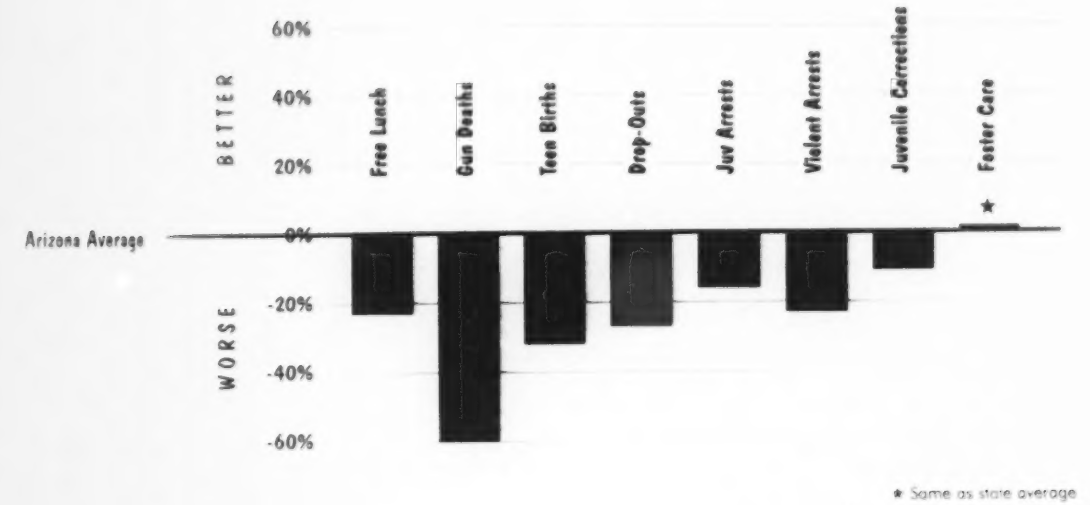
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

40,484	Children
6,290	Children in families receiving AFDC
10,743	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
14,656	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
7	Children killed by guns
215	Births to teens
1,243	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)
2,964	Juvenile arrests (data incomplete)
97	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes (data incomplete)
50	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
202	Children in foster care (1997)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	PINAL CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	worse	worse
Births to teens	better	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	better	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	worse	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	worse	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES PINAL COUNTY COMPARE?



★ Same as state average

PINAL COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR PINAL COUNTY CHILDREN

	Pinal 1990 Rate	Pinal 1996 Rate	Pinal Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	16.1%	15.8%	-1.9%	10.2%	12
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**25.2%**	**27.0%**	**7.1%**	**20.1%**	**9**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	47.4%	56.5%*	19.2%	46.0%*	10
Gun-related child deaths	**2.7 per 100,000**	**15.8 per 100,000**	**485.2%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**14**
Births to teens	29.2 per 1000	25.1 per 1000	-14.0%	18.9 per 1000	13
School drop-outs	**12.2%****	**11.2%*****	**-8.2%**	**8.8%*****	**11**
Juvenile arrests	10.0%▲	13.1%▲	31.0%	11.3%▲	8^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**4.3▲ per 1000**	**22.9%**	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**9^**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	1.5** per 1000	2.3 per 1000	53.3%	2.0 per 1000	8^
Reports of child abuse	4.1%▼	3.8%*▼	-7.3%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	2.5 per 1000	5.0 per 1000	100.0%	5.0 per 1000	7^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 5, which includes Gila and Pinal counties.

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

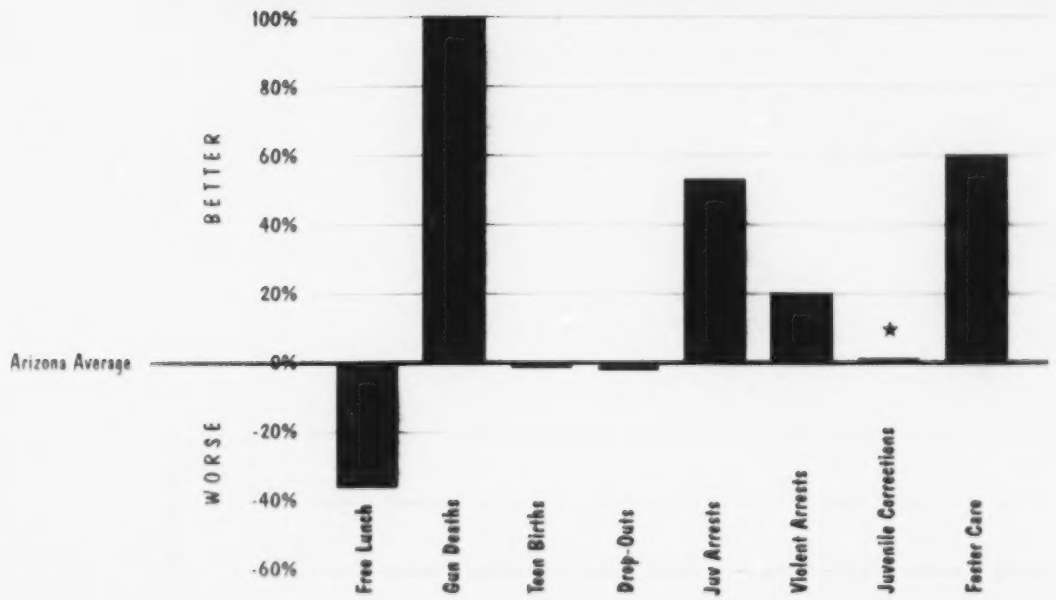
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

12,074	Children
1,039	Children in families receiving AFDC
2,957	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
5,669	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
0	Children killed by guns
46	Births to teens
356	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)
325	Juvenile arrests
17	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
12	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
24	Children in foster care (1997)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	SANTA CRUZ CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	same	worse
Births to teens	worse	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	better	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	worse	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	better	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	better	worse

HOW DOES SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMPARE?



53 *Same as state average

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHILDREN

	Santa Cruz 1990 Rate	Santa Cruz 1996 Rate	Santa Cruz Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	5.2%	8.7%	67.3%	10.2%	4
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	18.3%	24.8%	35.5%	20.1%	6
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	58.8%	62.6%*	6.5%	46.0%*	12
Gun-related child deaths	0 per 100,000	0 per 100,000	0%	9.9 per 100,000	1
Births to teens	14.1 per 1000	19.2 per 1000	36.2%	18.9 per 1000	10
School drop-outs	11.8%**	9.0%***	-23.7%	8.8%***	5
Juvenile arrests	3.9%	5.3%	35.9%	11.3%▲	2^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	2.6 per 1000	2.8 per 1000	7.7%	3.5▲ per 1000	5^
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	4.2** per 1000	2.0 per 1000	-52.4%	2.0 per 1000	6^
Reports of child abuse	4.5%▼	3.1%*▼	-31.1%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	2.6 per 1000	2.0 per 1000	-23.1%	5.0 per 1000	2^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of-home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 6, which includes Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties.

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

YAVAPAI COUNTY

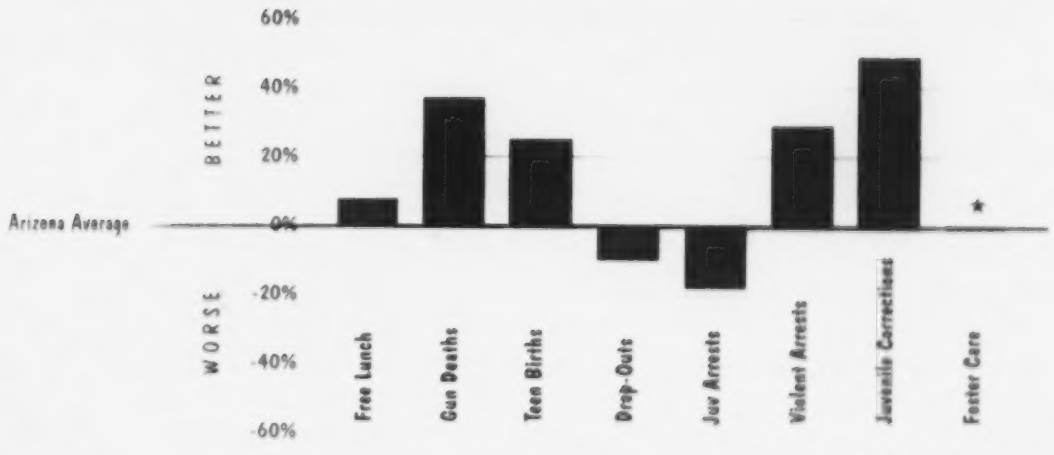
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

29,242	Children
2,018	Children in families receiving AFDC
4,394	Children in families receiving Food Stamps
6,966	Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)
2	Children killed by guns
92	Births to teens
938	School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)
2,233	Juvenile arrests
42	Juvenile arrests for violent crimes
18	Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections
146	Children in foster care (1997)

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	YAVAPAI CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	better	worse
Births to teens	worse	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	worse	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	better	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	worse	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES YAVAPAI COUNTY COMPARE?



YAVAPAI COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR YAVAPAI COUNTY CHILDREN

	Yavapai 1990 Rate	Yavapai 1996 Rate	Yavapai Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	5.8%	7.0%	20.7%	10.2%	2
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	**11.9%**	**15.3%**	**28.6%**	**20.1%**	**3**
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	31.9%	42.3%*	32.6%	46.0%*	3
Gun-related child deaths	**11.5 per 100,000**	**6.2 per 100,000**	**-46.1%**	**9.9 per 100,000**	**6**
Births to teens	8.9 per 1000	14.1 per 1000	58.4%	18.9 per 1000	2
School drop-outs	**6.8%****	**9.7%*****	**42.6%**	**8.8%*****	**6**
Juvenile arrests	9.1%▲	13.3%	46.2%	11.3%▲	9 ^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	**3.9▲ per 1000**	**2.5 per 1000**	**-35.9%**	**3.5▲ per 1000**	**4 ^**
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	0.6** per 1000	1.1 per 1000	83.3%	2.0 per 1000	2 ^
Reports of child abuse	**2.4%▼**	**2.6%*▼**	**8.3%**	**3.1%**	**N/A**
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	3.5 per 1000	5.0 per 1000	42.9%	5.0 per 1000	7 ^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▲ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▼ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 3, which includes Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai counties.

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YUMA COUNTY

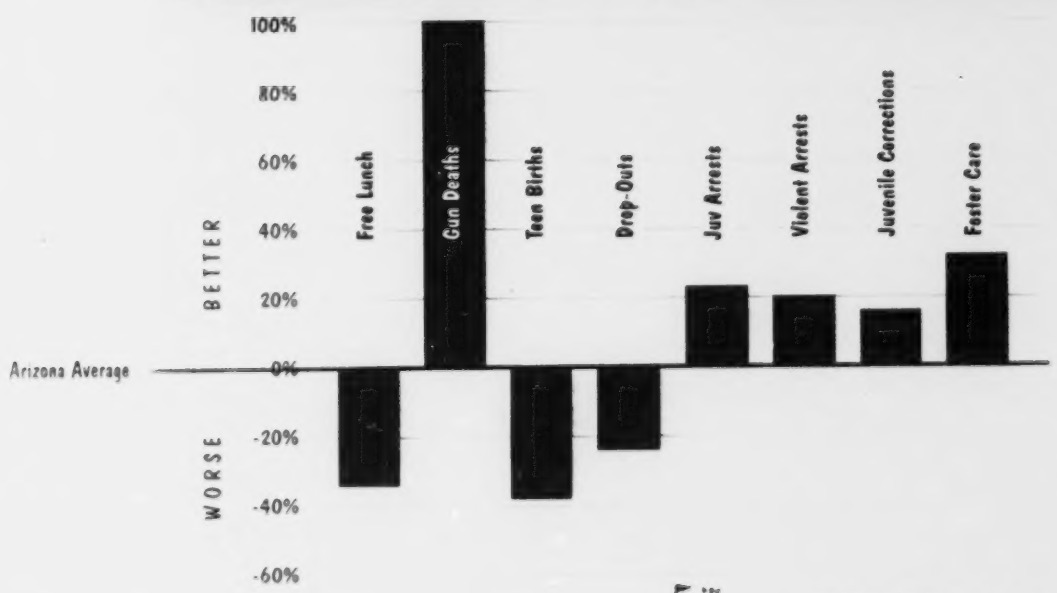
THREATS TO CHILD WELL-BEING 1996

38,880	**Children**
4,787	**Children in families receiving AFDC**
11,407	**Children in families receiving Food Stamps**
17,313	**Children approved for free or reduced price school lunch (1996/97)**
0	**Children killed by guns**
208	**Births to teens**
1,425	**School drop-outs (grades 7-12, 1994/1995)**
1,809	**Juvenile arrests** (data incomplete)
58	**Juvenile arrests for violent crimes** (data incomplete)
35	**Commitments to the Department of Juvenile Corrections**
132	**Children in foster care (1997)**

TRENDS FOR 1990 TO 1996

	YUMA CO.	ARIZONA
Reduced price school lunch approvals (1990-1997)	worse	worse
Children killed by guns	same	worse
Births to teens	worse	worse
School drop-outs (1993-1995)	worse	better
Juvenile arrests	better	worse
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	worse	better
Commitments to Juvenile Corrections (1993-1996)	worse	better
Foster care (1991-1997)	worse	worse

HOW DOES YUMA COUNTY COMPARE?



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YUMA COUNTY

RISK INDICATORS FOR YUMA COUNTY CHILDREN

	Yuma 1990 Rate	Yuma 1996 Rate	Yuma Rate Change	Arizona 1996 Rate	County Ranking (1 is best)
Children in families receiving AFDC	7.0%	12.5%	78.6%	10.2%	7
Children in families receiving Food Stamps	18.8%	29.7%	58.0%	20.1%	12
Children approved for free/reduced price lunch	57.4%	61.6%*	7.3%	46.0%*	11
Gun-related child deaths	0 per 100,000	0 per 100,000	0%	9.9 per 100,000	1
Births to teens	17.3 per 1000	26.1 per 1000	50.9%	18.9 per 1000	15
School drop-outs	8.3%**	10.9%***	31.3%	8.8%***	10
Juvenile arrests	9.8%▼	8.7%▼	-11.2%	11.3%▼	4 ^
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	1.8▼ per 1000	2.8▼ per 1000	55.6%	3.5▼ per 1000	5 ^
Commitments to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	1.4** per 1000	1.7 per 1000	21.4%	2.0 per 1000	5 ^
Reports of child abuse	4.4%▲	3.6%*▲	-18.2%	3.1%	N/A
Foster care (1991 and 1997)	3.2 per 1000	3.3 per 1000	3.1%	5.0 per 1000	4 ^

*1997 rate **1993 rate ***1995 rate

▼ Data do not include full figures from all law enforcement offices.

^ Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

▲ Data represent all child abuse reports in DES District 4, which includes La Paz, Mohave and Yuma counties.

chapter 3

Welfare Reform: Threats and Promises For Arizona's Children

For the past two years, our public discussions of welfare reform in Arizona and throughout the nation have focused on moving people from welfare to work. In our zeal to reduce the welfare rolls, our policy debates and development have, at times, overlooked the fact that *the vast majority of people on welfare — over two-thirds of the caseload in Arizona — are children.*

Two-thirds of the people on welfare in Arizona are children.

The fact is that welfare eligibility decisions affect parents *and* their children. Decisions about which services a family can get and which job placement is appropriate affect parents *and* their children. Sanctions and benefit reductions affect parents *and* their children. As we strive to enhance the personal responsibility of parents who receive welfare, we must also keep in mind that our policies simultaneously affect their children — our next generation of employers, employees, and parents.

It is too soon to measure the precise impact of Arizona's welfare reform on children. But based on a broad array of national research, we can predict both positive and negative consequences. The research finds that welfare reform can affect chil-

FEDERAL LAW

In 1996, Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act. The Act abolished the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and child care subsidy programs and replaced them with two new block grants (pre-set amounts of federal tax dollars granted to states) to help meet the basic needs of low-income families with children and to reduce dependency. These new block grants, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), have a new set of federal requirements, but also give the states more discretion in deciding how to help people and whom to help. The federal law does not entitle any group to public assistance, and federal funds will not increase over time even if there is a growing need for services (with a few minor exceptions). The new set of requirements mandates that, by 2002, 50% of parents receiving welfare work or volunteer 30 hours per week, and that families may receive cash assistance for only five years during their entire lifetime.

ARIZONA LAW

In response to this new federal law, Arizona developed two approaches for serving families: *EMPOWER Redesign* and a privatization pilot called *Arizona Works*. People living in a defined geographic area, including parts of Maricopa County initially, will be served by *Arizona Works*. People living in the rest of the state will be served by *EMPOWER Redesign* (EMPOWER stands for Employing and Moving People Off Welfare and Encouraging Responsibility.). Through *EMPOWER Redesign*, Department of Economic Security (DES) offices will be turned into employment offices. When families apply for assistance, they will be given immediate help in their job search and must agree to look for a job in order to receive welfare. DES will have various tracks to help people become employed. Parents who are basically job ready may receive some help with job searching skills, such as interviewing of filling out applications. Parents who need more intensive services to become job-ready will be referred to other services, such as GED classes.

The *Arizona Works* pilot program will be run by a private vendor. The vendor will be selected by a Procurement Board, consisting mainly of employer representatives, appointed by Governor Symington. In 1999, the pilot will operate in parts of Maricopa County (Mesa, Chandler, Guadalupe, Tempe, Gilbert, Queen Creek, parts of Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Glendale, and three reservations: Ft McDowell, Salt River Pima-Maricopa, and Pascuayaqui). The pilot will then be expanded to a rural area yet to be determined. Welfare recipients will be placed into jobs or a combination of community service and education activities that will total up to 40 hours per week. Families will receive a flat grant of no more than $390 per month regardless of family size. Families in the pilot must be poorer to qualify for assistance than families eligible for *EMPOWER Redesign*.

60

dren in three main ways:

* By changing family income
* By changing family stability
* By changing access to basic services, such as child care and health care.

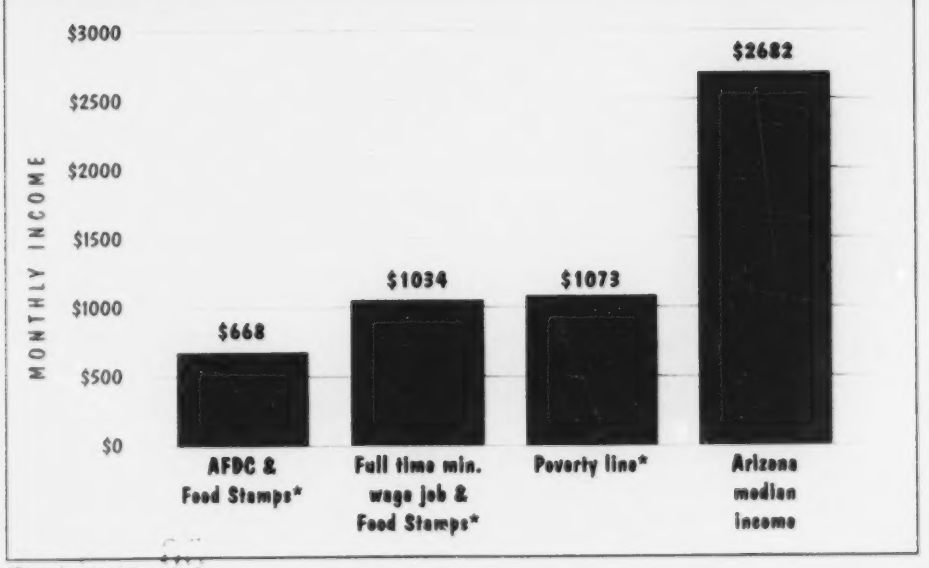
This chapter explores the existing threats and promises for Arizona's children in these three areas. But Arizona's welfare reform is far from complete. Additional legislation and administrative policy will be needed to build upon the strong components of the 1997 welfare legislation as well as to repair the weaker components. We have the opportunity to shape our policy to help parents raise children who are healthy, safe, and successful.

FAMILY INCOME

Why It Matters: Studies repeatedly confirm that poverty is bad for children. The more time a child spends in poverty, the worse the consequences.[10] Poor children have more health and behavioral problems,[11] fewer years of education, and poorer performance in school.[12] Poor children are more likely to be teen mothers,[13] have lower IQs,[14] and achieve lower economic productivity later in life.[15] These consequences are linked to extremely low family income — *regardless of whether that low income comes from welfare or from work.*[16]

Promise of Arizona's Welfare Reform: Focusing on overall family income will make a much bigger difference in the life chances of children than focusing solely on getting a parent into a job — any job. Parents need education and training to get well-paying jobs. And they need reliable transportation to be reliable employees. Arizona's welfare law lays the foundation in these areas by allocating some addi-

11. ARIZONA FAMILY INCOME COMPARISONS



*For a family of three

tional federal funds to help parents with these vital supports. The intended promise of Arizona's welfare reform is to help families step onto the economic ladder as quickly as possible, thus raising income above welfare levels.

Threat of Arizona's Welfare Reform: While successful reform has been defined as getting families off the welfare rolls, family income may remain dangerously low. (See Chart 11.) A single mother with two children who gets a 25-hour per week job at $6.00 per hour earns too much to remain eligible for welfare. Yet, at an annual income of $7,800, the family lives far below the federal poverty level and struggles to survive.

Some families will have their TANF benefits eliminated. According to the federal law, a family may no longer receive welfare benefits after a cumulative total of five years. That means the family, including the children, can get no more assistance, regardless of need and regardless of job availability. (The federal law allows states to exempt 20% of the welfare caseload from this time limit.) Children in families who hit their time limits face a significant drop in family income.

According to Arizona law, a family's TANF benefit will be reduced after two years of assistance within a five-year period. Regardless of hardship or individual circumstance, benefits will be reduced. Through no fault of their own, children will be plunged deeper into poverty.

Families may also see their benefits reduced or eliminated due to failing to comply with program rules. If parents don't attend job-readiness classes or don't have their children properly immunized, benefits will be reduced — by 25% the first month, 50% the second month, and eliminated completely the third month. Our well-intentioned attempt to promote responsible behavior by parents will also affect the lives of children.

In the *Arizona Works* pilot program, families will receive a flat grant of no more than $390 a month regardless of family size. Under *EMPOWER Redesign* in the rest of the state, families of four or more may receive more than $415 per month. This means that some children in the pilot will become poorer than children in the rest of the state.

What Can We Do?: The negative effects of poverty occur whether low income is from welfare or wages.[1] The Department of Economic Security will issue an annual report that examines the impact of welfare reform on family income and job retention. We should also monitor the impact on family income by measuring changes in requests for help from food banks, homeless shelters, and other emergency social services.

Any program that focuses only on moving people into any job without also considering wages, hours, benefits, and job retention, will leave many children mired in poverty. It is important that both the private vendor in *Arizona Works* and the Department of Economic Security be given the responsibility and the tools to place people in lasting jobs that pay a family wage.

Any program that focuses only on moving people into jobs without also considering wages, hours, benefits, and job retention, will leave many children mired in poverty.

62

We can design ways to mitigate the impact of low wages. Options include tax credits or sliding-scale assistance for working families earning very low incomes. Welfare reform will make very little difference in children's lives if we merely shift families from receiving welfare and remaining poor to working and remaining poor.

FAMILY STABILITY

Why It Matters: Poverty contributes heavily to family instability. Research has demonstrated a significant link between the degree of economic hardship a mother suffers and her psychological distress.[18] Parents who are stressed and depressed tend to nurture their children less, punish them harshly and without a clear reason, or even abuse them. Numerous studies indicate a link between poverty and child abuse. For example, national data reveal that abuse and neglect is more than 20% higher among families with incomes below $15,000 than among families with incomes above $30,000.[19] Los Angeles County identified a direct link between a reduction in welfare benefits and a subsequent jump in rates of child abuse and neglect.[20] For single parents, the psychological impacts of poverty and related hardships are even more severe.[21] In Arizona, that group constitutes most of the parents receiving welfare; fewer than 3% of families on the welfare rolls are two-parent households.

Promise of Arizona's Welfare Reform: Arizona's welfare reform legislation allows welfare recipients, who are victims of domestic violence, deferrals from work requirements and time limits and allows the Department of Economic Security to refer victims to specialized services. If implemented well, these provisions will have a significant impact in reducing family stress. The intended promise of Arizona's welfare reform is to enhance family stability through the dignity and financial rewards of work.

Threat of Arizona's Welfare Reform: To date, there are too few resources to fulfill this vision. The system has funding to provide only a fraction of all adult welfare recipients with the help they need to find a job. That leaves thousands of struggling parents facing time limits without help in overcoming the barriers that led them to the welfare rolls in the first place.

Parents who reach their time limit but still find no employment are at great risk for family crisis.

In addition to being poor and single, parents will face the added stressors of time limits, work requirements, benefit reductions, and numerous new compliance rules. Parents placed in community service position or jobs without proper preparation or necessary support could be stretched beyond their coping limits. Benefit restrictions and reductions could make parents too poor to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, which is a form of child neglect. Parents who reach their time limit but still find no employment are at great risk for family crisis.

What Can We Do?: The Department of Economic Security's annual report on welfare reform will include indicators that examine the child abuse and neglect rate. We should put tracking mechanisms in place to monitor the connection between wel-

fare changes and the incidence of child abuse, child neglect, and placement into foster care. We should also monitor changes in voluntary requests for help taking care of children through child crisis shelters and faith-based services.

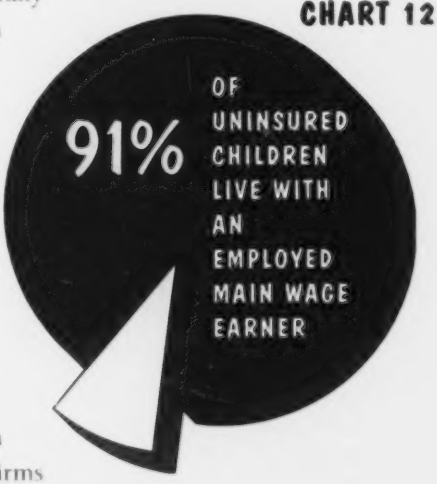
ACCESS TO SERVICES

Why It Matters: All children have the same basic needs. In addition to food, shelter, and clothing, children need health care to stay well and they need a safe, nurturing environment in which to grow and thrive. Poor children often have less access to these necessities than other children do.

Health Care: Poor children are more likely to be born low birthweight,[22] and to die as infants. Children without health insurance are less likely to get care for injuries, see a physician, or receive dental care. They are more likely to have untreated health problems.[23] Such problems can grow into expensive conditions that need ongoing care, such as an untreated ear infection that leads to permanent hearing damage.

Children in families receiving welfare qualify for, and generally receive, AHCCCS health care coverage. But thousands of children in low-income, working families have no health care coverage through their parents' employer, as shown in Chart 12. Many go without health care coverage either because their family income is too high to be eligible for AHCCCS or because their parents don't know they are eligible, and they are not enrolled. In Arizona, at least one out of four children in working, poor families who qualified for AHCCCS was not enrolled and had no other health care coverage.[24]

CHART 12



Child Care: Both the federal and state laws require that more parents on welfare work or participate in community service activities. While parents are away from home, they need a safe, nurturing place for their children. Research repeatedly confirms that inexpensive, informal child care arrangements are more likely to crumble, forcing parents to miss work and possibly lose their jobs.[25] The quality of child care is critical to healthy child development and is especially important for children in low-income families. Studies have determined that high quality preschool programs significantly enhance poor children's social and coping skills, reduce referrals to special education, and improve learning during the elementary grades.[26]

Promise of Arizona's Welfare Reform: Arizona's new welfare law provides families receiving TANF with health care coverage and subsidies for child care. The law also guarantees families continued health care coverage for two years after they transition off TANF. Families can receive transitional child care subsidies for up to two years as well, but only as long as their income remains below 135% of the federal poverty level. The 1997 legislation added funding to increase the availability and

the amount of child care subsidies for low-income working families who are not receiving welfare.

Threat of Arizona's Welfare Reform: Although the 1997 legislation recognized the need for services and built a solid foundation, the funding falls short of what is needed to keep families off the welfare rolls and help their children thrive. Low-income, working families who are not receiving welfare tend to have the least access to services of any families. As more families leave the welfare rolls through welfare reform, thousands more children could be put at risk. For example, child care in Arizona costs $3,000 to $6,000 per year. A minimum wage job pays less than $11,000. Chart 13 illustrates a sample budget for a low-income, working mother.

13. CHILD CARE FOR SINGLE ARIZONA MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN WHO EARNS $6/HR

Receives Food Stamps & low-income tax credit

What Can We Do?: The Department of Economic Security's annual report will examine access to health care and child care for families in the welfare system. We also must ensure that funding keeps pace with demand. As the federal work requirements increase, more families receiving welfare will need help paying for child care. We should not let this detract from the amount available for child care subsidies for low-income, working families. Finally, the subsidy rate should rise as the cost of care rises.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Arizona's welfare reform holds both promise and threats for Arizona's poorest children. We have designed a bridge to connect struggling families with employment and the income, dignity, and stability that come with it. But the bridge is narrow and shaky. Despite tremendous flexibility for state funding and policy decisions, Arizona's reform has largely remained within the confines of federal minimum requirements. We have the authority and the resources to do so much more. With a creative range of new connecting supports, we can widen and strengthen the bridge to carry thousands more parents and their children to a better future. Welfare reform is still under construction. It is up to us to design the plans — and to carry them out — so that families can find jobs and keep them, and so that children can grow up with the care and security they need to succeed.

chapter 4

Translating Our State's Wealth into Children's Health

Arizona possesses tremendous resources. We have a highly educated workforce. Families are moving here in droves. We have businesses who are committed to making Arizona an even better place for their employees to live. Our economic base has become stronger and more diverse during the last decade. Our job growth is the second fastest in the nation. We have a large pool of retirees who are volunteers and potential volunteers. Arizona has been on the policy forefront in saving tax dollars through Medicaid managed care and in initiating pilot early childhood programs to strengthen families and prevent crime. We have a state budget surplus of over $550 million.

But Arizona faces some formidable challenges in reducing risk indicators for children. Our communities are characterized by a high rate of mobility and changing leadership. We are a low wage state where people moving here from out of state compete with Arizonans looking for jobs (and two out of three times, win the job). We have large populations of Hispanic and American Indian children, groups that disproportionately suffer poverty and other risk factors throughout the country.

We have large rural areas with extreme lacks in job opportunities. We have an underdeveloped social services system to connect struggling families with help.

It is up to us as parents, as neighbors, as volunteers, as employers, and as voters to use our resources to meet our challenges. The future is in our hands. We have the opportunity to prepare our children to be excellent citizens, workers, parents, and leaders.

It is up to us as parents, as neighbors, as volunteers, as employers, and as voters to use our resources to meet our challenges.

The data in this report tell us that too many of Arizona's working families are struggling. We know that no matter how big and fast our economy grows, the benefits don't automatically trickle down to improve children's lives. We have to make that happen. It requires both personal and public commitment. It is clear that caring for our own children and reaching out to help a child in need can both dramatically change the lives and life chances for children. It is just as clear that public effort — through state policies, partnerships, and funding — is also necessary to make real progress in turning these statistics around.

There are five public policy areas that, given committed support, have great potential to strengthen working families.

1. Abused and neglected children: There should be no question that we respond to all reports of child abuse and neglect. But our response cannot stop after investigating the report. We must develop the policies and the funding to provide ongoing services, support, and monitoring of families. When necessary, we must protect children with stable foster families and adoptive families before these children wait too long.

There should be no question that we respond to all reports of child abuse and neglect.

2. Children's Health Care Coverage: The passage of the State Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) on the federal level provides a wonderful and unique opportunity to make a profound difference in the lives of Arizona's children in working families. With visionary policies and adequate state matching dollars, we can use this opportunity to bring health care security to tens of thousands of Arizona children.

3. Arizona Child and Family Stability Act: This legislation, passed in 1994, established three pilot programs to help struggling families better care for and nurture their children. Healthy Families, Health Start, and Family Literacy help families address immediate needs such as housing, food, and employment, and provide ongoing support to strengthen families. These programs incorporate proven elements of successful programs from across the country that help struggling families overcome tremendous odds. If expanded to more participants, the benefits of the Success By 6 programs could ultimately help enough families to improve Arizona's overall risk indicators. Without legislative action, these programs will expire on June 30, 1998.

4. Child Care: Access to quality and affordable child care is critical for Arizona's families and for a healthy economy. Today, the cost of child care is prohibitive for most low-income, working families. The quality of child care is inconsistent, and there

are few incentives to improve. Many families have trouble finding access to child care that fits their work schedules and their children's needs. State leadership and resource commitments are needed to help make high quality child care available and affordable to Arizona's families.

5. Welfare Reform. Arizona's welfare reform is far from complete. Additional legislation and administrative policy will be needed to build upon the strong components of the 1997 welfare reform legislation as well as to repair the weaker components. Ultimately, the success of welfare reform rests not on reduced caseloads or reduced state budgets, but on its impact on children and families. We should use these economic good times as an opportunity to help families find jobs and stay off the welfare rolls. We can design state policy and state budgets to help families succeed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

We can all play a part in translating our state's wealth into children's health. 1998 is an election year for our governor and all state legislators. There is no better opportunity for citizens to influence the public policy process than to make themselves heard when elections are at stake. You have already taken some time to educate yourself about the plight of children in Arizona by reading this book. But you can do even more to make a difference.

Register and vote. Kids can't vote, but you can. Give your values some political muscle. Make your vote count for kids.

Contact candidates directly. Introduce yourself and ask candidates about their positions on issues that matter to you. Tell them what you know, and voice your concerns about children. Start getting kids' issues on the table in the beginning.

There is no better opportunity for citizens to influence the public policy process than to make themselves heard when elections are at stake.

Call your legislators. Keep up the communication once candidates become elected officials. Kids don't hire lobbyists to talk to legislators, and legislators aren't psychics. They need to hear from you. Call your legislator or write a short letter. Legislators say that calls from constituents really do make a difference in the issues they raise and how they vote.

Stay informed and involved. Keep your eye out for information about children. To supplement articles and publications, check out the Internet. Children's Action Alliance's home page offers updates on what is going on with children's issues around the state. (Our address is www.azchildren.org.) You can also use our webpage to link to other useful sites to learn about more about specific issues. Ask to be part of our FAX-alert network to get timely updates and action steps on critical issues.

Read your newspapers; write the editor. If an article strikes you as right on target, or blatantly absurd, let the editors know. Offer your personal perspective. Just keep your letter short and to the point.

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Volunteer your time or make a financial contribution to a local children's program. Homeless shelters, schools, recreation centers, and mentoring programs can make good use of your personal and financial resources. Together you can make a real difference to a real child.

Make your political donations count for children. If you donate to candidates, give your dollars to candidates who share your stand on children's issues. Include a letter with your check letting them know your support is linked to their stand for children.

Arizona has a wonderful opportunity to put our values on display. We have the chance to design public policy and programs that suit our unique problems and address our future with an ingenuity and style that is all our own. We have the freedom, and the financial resources, to think big, to act big, to reach further than we ever thought possible.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 — ARIZONA TRENDS 1990, 1994, 1996*

CHILD POVERTY

	1990 Rate	1994 Rate	1996 Rate
Arizona	23.4%	23.9%	22.9%
US	19.3%	20.5%	19.2%

CHILDREN RECEIVING PUBLIC SERVICES

	1990 Rate	1994 Rate	1996 Rate
Children in Families Receiving AFDC	8.1%	12.2%	10.2%
Children in Families Receiving Food Stamps	15.5%	25.4%	20.1%
Children enrolled in AHCCCS	20.2%	27.0%	22.2%
Births covered by AHCCCS	29.6%	42.4%	44.6%
Children approved for free and reduced price lunch	36.1%	43.2%	46.0%*
Students receiving migrant services	80.0%**	NA	56.0%
Average monthly participation in WIC (infants & children only)	16.7%	NA	31.6%

*1997 **1991

*1990 and 1996 figures were collected and reported by the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University. 1994 figures were collected and reported by Children's Action Alliance

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

	1990 Rate	1994 Rate	1996 Rate
Women with inadequate prenatal care	9.8%	7.4%	6.8%
Low birthweight babies (less than 2,501 grams)	**6.5%**	**6.8%**	**6.8%**
Very low birthweight babies (less than 1,501 grams)	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%
Newborns in intensive care	**4.0%**	**4.9%**	**5.9%**
Fully immunized two-year olds	NA	77.0% (+/-4.8)	72.0% (+/-3.8)
State approved child care spaces	**11.1%**	**14.5%**	**14.2%**
Children receiving child care subsidies	2.8%	3.2%	3.5%
Available tax-funded preschool slots	**11.4% (1991)**	**15.9%**	**18.9% (1997)**

CHILD HEALTH AND SAFETY

	1990 Rate	1994 Rate	1996 Rate
Children with no health insurance	12.8%*	13.7%**	14.0%***
Infant deaths	**8.7 per 1000 live births**	**7.8 per 1000 live births**	**7.7per 1000 live births**
Child deaths (1-14)	33.0 per 100,000	36.7 per 100,000	32.3 per 100,000
Firearm related deaths (0-19)	**5.9 per 100,000**	**11.1 per 100,000**	**9.9 per 100,000**
Drownings (0-4)	5.8 per 100,000	7.8 per 100,000	8.0 per 100,000
Reported cases of STDs (0-19)	**4.3 per 1000**	**3.9 per 1000**	**3.8 per 1000**
Diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS (0-19)	1.6 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	1.0** per 100,000

*1989 data **1995 data ***1997 data

YOUTH AT RISK IN ARIZONA

	1990 Rate	1994 Rate	1996 Rate
Teens dropped out of school	9.0%*	NA	8.8%**
Births to teens (girls aged 10-17)	18.2 per 1000	19.7 per 1000	18.9 per 1000
Teen deaths (15-19)	90.5 per 100,000	109.7 per 100,000	114.7 per 100,000
Teen homicides	10.7 per 100,000	26.4 per 100,000	24.4 per 100,000
Teen suicides	16.1 per 100,000	22.4 per 100,000	18.2 per 100,000

*1992-93 school year **1994-95 school year

ARIZONA YOUTHS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM
(Includes youths aged 8-17)

	1990 Rate	1994 Rate	1996 Rate
Juvenile arrests	10.3%	11.2%	11.3%
Juvenile arrests for violent crimes	3.7 per 1000	3.9 per 1000	3.5 per 1000
Juvenile arrests for drug crimes	2.4 per 1000	6.8 per 1000	8.4 per 1000
Juvenile arrests for runaway and curfew violation	19.2 per 1000	29.5 per 1000	27.1 per 1000
Juveniles committed to the Dept of Juvenile Corrections	22.8 per 10,000 (1993)	33.4 per 10,000	20.2 per 10,000
Average monthly juvenile population in secure care	9.6 per 10,000 (1993)	8.2 per 10,000	8.8 per 10,000
Juvenile cases transferred to adult court	1.6%	3.1%	3.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (children aged 0-17)	1991 Rate	1995 Rate	1997 Rate
CPS reports of child abuse and neglect per child population	2.4%	2.5%	3.1%
CPS reports investigated per report	**88.7%**	**91.9%**	**84.4%**
Substantiated CPS reports per child population	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
CPS reports substantiated per investigated report	**52.4%**	**46.5%**	**44.8%**
Children in foster care	4.0 per 1000	4.1 per 1000	5.0 per 1000

APPENDIX 2 — POPULATION

	1990	1996	Percentage Increase
Number of children (0-12)	738,888	885,647	19.9%
Number of children (0-17)	**986,009**	**1,202,062**	**21.9%**
Number of children (0-18)	1,039,321	1,260,814	21.3%
Number of children (0-19)	**1,100,575**	**1,321,743**	**20.0%**
Number of births	68,814	75,095	3.2%
Number of children (0-4)	**299,990**	**341,125**	**13.7%**
Number of children (3-4)	120,553*	141,696	17.5%
Number of children (8-17)	**516,567**	**648,455**	**25.5%**
Number of girls (10-17)	197,697	241,328	22.1%
Number of children (15-19)	**262,827**	**307,943**	**17.2%**

*1991 data

APPENDIX 3 — COUNTY RANKINGS 1996

AFDC RECEIPT

1	Greenlee	6.1
2	Yavapai	7.0
3	Maricopa	8.0
4	Santa Cruz	8.7
5	Coconino	9.0
6	Pima	10.0
7	Cochise	12.5
7	Mohave	12.5
7	Yuma	12.5
10	Graham	12.9
11	La Paz	13.9
12	Gila	15.8
12	Pinal	15.8
14	Navajo	17.7
15	Apache	21.6

FOOD STAMPS RECEIPT

1	Greenlee	11.9
2	Maricopa	14.9
3	Yavapai	15.3
4	Pima	20.6
5	Coconino	22.7
6	Santa Cruz	24.8
7	Cochise	25.8
8	Graham	26.8
9	Pinal	27.0
10	Mohave	27.1
11	La Paz	28.4
12	Yuma	29.7
13	Gila	32.4
14	Navajo	36.6
15	Apache	48.3

APPROVAL FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL LUNCH (1997)

1	Greenlee	26.3
2	Maricopa	40.9
3	Yavapai	42.3
4	Mohave	43.0
5	Coconino	45.0
6	Cochise	47.9
7	Pima	49.1
8	Graham	50.7
9	Gila	56.4
10	Pinal	56.5
11	Yuma	61.6
12	Santa Cruz	62.6
13	La Paz	63.0
14	Navajo	63.8
15	Apache	73.5

FIREARM FATALITIES (PER 100,000)

1	Greenlee	0
1	La Paz	0
1	Santa Cruz	0
1	Yuma	0
5	Navajo	5.9
6	Yavapai	6.2
7	Gila	7.4
8	Coconino	8.1
9	Cochise	8.6
10	Graham	9.1
11	Pima	9.3
11	Maricopa	9.3
13	Mohave	15.5
14	Pinal	15.8
15	Apache	20.4

BIRTHS TO TEENS (PER 1,000)

1	Apache	12.3
2	Coconino	14.1
2	Yavapai	14.1
4	La Paz	14.4
5	Pima	15.8
6	Graham	16.4
6	Navajo	16.4
8	Cochise	17.3
9	Gila	18.2
10	Santa Cruz	19.2
11	Maricopa	19.8
12	Mohave	21.9
13	Pinal	25.1
14	Greenlee	25.3
15	Yuma	26.1

SCHOOL DROP OUTS (1995)

1	Greenlee	3.9
2	Graham	6.9
3	Navajo	7.2
4	Maricopa	7.7
5	Santa Cruz	9.0
6	Yavapai	9.7
7	Pima	9.8
8	Coconino	9.9
9	Gila	10.8
10	Yuma	10.9
11	Pinal	11.2
12	Cochise	11.8
12	La Paz	11.8
14	Apache	12.0
15	Mohave	13.7

JUVENILE ARRESTS*

1	La Paz	0.9
2	Santa Cruz	5.3
3	Greenlee	7.1
4	Yuma	8.7
5	Graham	9.3
6	Maricopa	9.5
7	Cochise	10.0
8	Pinal	13.1
9	Yavapai	13.3
10	Gila	15.8
11	Pima	18.1
12	Mohave	18.5
N/A	Apache	3.2
N/A	Navajo	7.3
N/A	Coconino	13.2

JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIME* (PER 1,000)

1	La Paz	0
2	Cochise	1.4
3	Greenlee	1.7
4	Yavapai	2.5
5	Yuma	2.8
5	Santa Cruz	2.8
6	Gila	3.1
7	Maricopa	3.4
7	Mohave	3.4
8	Graham	3.9
9	Pinal	4.3
9	Pima	4.3
N/A	Apache	1.0
N/A	Navajo	2.8
N/A	Coconino	4.9

COMMITMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS* (PER 1,000)

1	Greenlee	0.6
2	Graham	1.1
2	Yavapai	1.1
4	Maricopa	1.6
5	Yuma	1.7
6	Santa Cruz	2.0
7	La Paz	2.2
8	Pinal	2.3
9	Mohave	2.5
10	Pima	3.0
11	Cochise	3.7
12	Gila	3.8
N/A	Apache	0.1
N/A	Navajo	1.0
N/A	Coconino	1.2

FOSTER CARE (1997)* (PER 1,000)

1	La Paz	1.7
2	Santa Cruz	2.0
3	Graham	2.6
4	Yuma	3.3
5	Maricopa	4.8
5	Greenlee	4.8
7	Pinal	4.9
7	Yavapai	4.9
9	Cochise	5.0
10	Mohave	5.2
11	Pima	7.4
12	Gila	8.2
N/A	Apache	0.7
N/A	Navajo	1.9
N/A	Coconino	1.9

*Ranking is 1-12. Figures do not include arrests of American Indian youth by tribal authorities or out-of home placements made by Native American tribal support systems. Because American Indian youth made up at least 40% of the child population in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties, data for these counties do not reflect true juvenile crime or foster care trends in the county. Therefore, they are not included in the rankings.

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APPENDIX 5 — DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

Data Collection: Risk indicators included in this report were collected and reported by the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University with the exception of children with no health care coverage and all indicators related to child abuse and neglect which were collected and reported by Children's Action Alliance.

Reported Years: All data are reported by fiscal year unless otherwise noted: 1990 is July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990 and 1996 is July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996.

Child Population for Rate Calculations: Each risk indicator described here includes a definition of the specific child population age range used to calculate rates. State population figures for all age ranges are from *Population Estimates/Projections Single-Age Population (0-19) by Sex*, Population Statistics Unit, Department of Economic Security. Rate calculations for indicators covering a calendar year time period use the reported DES figures which reflect population as of July 1 of each year. Rate calculations for indicators covering a fiscal year time period use a mid-fiscal year figure derived by averaging the two July 1 estimates. The teen birth rate for 1996, for example, is calculated using the average of the July 1 1995 and the July 1 1996 population estimates for girls aged 10 to 17.

American Indian Child Statistics: Many social services for American Indians living on reservations are provided within their own social service system, rather than through state agencies. Data in this book for the following indicators do not include information on such services and therefore will be an undercount: AHCCCS enrollment, reports of child abuse and neglect, children in foster care, and juvenile arrests. In addition, education-related indicators do not include American Indians attending Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.

Children in Poverty: U.S. child poverty rates are from the Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Arizona child poverty rates are estimates prepared by Tom Rex, Center for Business Research, Arizona State University. The estimates are derived by updating 1989 decennial census figures for Arizona based on annual changes in the national child poverty rate and on annual estimates of per capita personal income in Arizona.

Rounding and Rate Change Calculation: All rates and rate changes have been calculated to the nearest tenth.

CHILDREN RECEIVING PUBLIC SERVICES

Children in Families Receiving AFDC (aged 0-17): The figures presented are averages of the monthly count for FY 1990 and FY 1996 from the *Aid to Families with Dependent Children Statistical Bulletin*, Family Assistance Administration, Department of Economic Security. Data include recipients under the age of 18 who are not heads of household. Data for FY 1996 include 2,885 children in two-parent families in the Unemployed Parent Program which began in 1991.

Children in Families Receiving Food Stamps (aged 0-17): The figures presented are based on averages of the monthly count for FY 1990 and FY 1996 from the *Food Stamps Program Statistical Bulletin*, Family Assistance Administration, Department of Economic Security. Recipients under the age of 18 were estimated by applying the percentage of total recipients who were under 18 at a specific point in time to the average monthly count of all recipients. (For 1996 data, the estimate is based on the percentage of recipients under 18 in January 1996.)

Children Enrolled in AHCCCS (aged 0-18): Figures include enrollment of children aged 0-18 in both the acute care and long-term care (ALTCS) programs, but exclude participants in the Indian Health Service system. Data were provided by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Office of Policy Analysis and Coordination, *AHCCCS Members Enrolled*, and represent the enrollment as of July 1 of each year. Enrollment increases between 1990 and 1996 were due in part to changes in eligibility: eligibility for infants covered under the Sixth Omnibus

Budget Reconciliation Act (SOBRA) increased from 100% of the federal poverty level to 140% of the federal poverty level as of October 1, 1990; the eligibility of children ages one through five increased to 133% of the federal poverty level at the same time; the eligibility of infants was extended to 12 months if the mother would qualify for Title XIX benefits if she were still pregnant as of July 1, 1991; in 1992, children aged six through thirteen were made eligible up to 100% of the federal poverty limit; eligibility for children aged fourteen through eighteen up to 100% of the federal poverty level is being phased in on a year-by-year basis beginning September 30, 1997.

Births Covered by AHCCCS: Data were provided by AHCCCS Office of Policy Analysis and Coordination, *AHCCCS Newborns Report*. Figures represent the total number of births paid for by AHCCCS during each fiscal year. Increases between 1990 and 1996 were due in part to changes in eligibility: the eligibility of pregnant women increased from 100% of the federal poverty level to 133% of the federal poverty level as of April 1, 1990 and to 140% of the federal poverty level as of October 1, 1990. There have also been a number of community outreach efforts to encourage eligible pregnant women to get prenatal care through AHCCCS, including *Baby Arizona*, a public-private partnership.

Children Approved for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (students in grades K-12 in participating public schools): Data for school year 1996/97 were prepared by Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Student Services Division, Child Nutrition Programs. Data for the 1989/90 school year were prepared by ADE, Research and Development Unit. The indicator represents the number of public school children (including charter and accommodation schools) approved for free or reduced-price school lunches during February 1990 and October 1996. Students are eligible for reduced-price school lunches if their family income is below 185% of the federal poverty level; they are eligible for free school lunches if their family income is below 130% of the federal poverty level. In 1990, schools participating in the program included 92% of all public school students in the state; in 1996 they included 96% of public school students. Non-participating schools are primarily small, rural schools without cafeterias. The large decrease shown in Greenlee County is due to a change in participation in the school lunch program. Prior to February 1994, the Morenci Unified School District, the county's largest district, did not have a cafeteria and therefore did not participate. Once the district did become a participant, it had a very low rate of students approved (14% in October 1996), thereby decreasing the overall rate for the entire county.

Students Receiving Migrant Services (eligible students in grades K-12): Data for fiscal years 1995/96 and 1990/91, were provided by Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Migrant Student Information Center. Totals include children in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Migrant student education is a federally funded program serving students in Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, and Yuma counties in Arizona. Services vary by site and can include tutoring and assistance with language acquisition. The 1995 reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act reduced students' eligibility for this program from six years to three years.

Average Monthly Participation in WIC (aged 0-4): Data for federal fiscal years 1990 and 1996 are from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Consumer Service, Special

Supplemental Food Programs Division, Program Analysis and Monitoring Branch. Data represent the number of infants and children from birth through age four in families receiving nutrition counseling and food through the WIC program. Eligibility requirements for WIC include income up to 185% of the federal poverty level and nutritional need. These figures include WIC programs administered by the Arizona Department of Health services, the Navajo Nation, and the Intertribal Council. In addition to the figures shown, 34,511 women (pregnant, up to six months postpartum, or up to one year breast feeding) participated in 1996. Women are not included in the participation rate because there is no accurate estimate of the number of pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women in the state.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Women With Inadequate Prenatal Care: These figures include women reporting 0-4 visits to a prenatal care provider. Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Low Birthweight Babies: These figures include babies weighing less than 2,501 grams. Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Very Low Birthweight Babies: These figures include babies weighing less than 1,501 grams. Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics* 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Newborns In Intensive Care: This indicator identifies the number of newborns that were admitted to a Newborn Intensive Care Unit after birth. Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. Data collection issues may significantly affect the figures shown. Birth certificates were first required to include this data category in 1989, and it is likely that this reporting has improved over time. However, questions about the definition of neonatal intensive care remain and vary from hospital to hospital.

Fully Immunized 2 year-olds : Data are from the National Immunization Survey (NIS), a nationwide phone survey conducted from April to December 1994 and January to December 1996. Full immunization is defined as four doses of DTP/DT, three doses of poliovirus vaccine, and one dose of measles-containing vaccine. The 1996 survey included automatic follow-up to parents' responses with health care provider records. At a 95% confidence level, the 1994 survey result is accurate within plus or minus 4.8 percentage points and the 1996 survey result is accurate within plus or minus 3.8 percentage points. Thus, the 1994 and 1996 figures are considered statistically equivalent. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends three doses of Hepatitus B and four doses of Hacmophilus Influenzae b Conjugate in addition to the above vaccinations.)

State-Approved Child Care Spaces (aged 0-12): Figures represent the number of spaces approved, not the actual number of children served. State approval includes: child care centers licensed by the Department of Health Services, family child care homes certified by the Department of Economic Security, family child care homes certified as "alternate approval homes"

by the Department of Education for participation in the federal Child and Adult Food Program, and day care group homes certified by the Department of Health Services. Data come from the *Child Care Local Market Rates Survey, 1990 and 1996*, conducted by the Maricopa County Office of Research and Reporting for the Child Care Administration in the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Figures are from telephone surveys conducted during October/November 1989 and February through June 1996. All identifiable child care providers were surveyed. Figures do not include unregulated homes serving one to four children. Child care centers operated by public schools were required to be licensed by July 1, 1996; very few are included in the data reported here.

Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies (aged 0-12): Data are from the Child Care Administration, Department of Economic Security. Figures are monthly averages for each fiscal year and include children receiving subsidies through the following state and federally-funded programs: State Day Care Subsidy, Transitional Child Care, JOBS child care, AFDC Employed Child Care, At-Risk Child Care, and the Child Care Development Block Grant. Most of the growth between 1990 and 1996 occurred in the welfare-related, entitlement child care programs required by the federal government (which provided substantial federal dollars and required state matching funds).

Available Tax-Funded Preschool Slots (aged 3-4): Figures include Head Start programs (Arizona Head Start, Indian Head Start, and Migrant Head Start) and preschool programs administered through the state Department of Education (Special Education, Migrant Child Education, Title I, Even Start, and the At-Risk Comprehensive Preschool Program).

Head Start data for 1996/97 were reported by individual Head Start directors based on their funded enrollment slots as of September 1, 1996. Data for 1990/91 were provided by Ellsworth Associates, *Project Head Start Program Information Reports*.

Special Education preschool data for academic year 1996/97 and 1990/91 were collected as a one-day count on 12/1/96, and 12/1/90. Data were provided by Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Exceptional Student Services (formerly Special Education Section). There is some duplication between the state special education preschool numbers and Head Start as some children receive both services. In 1996, 559 children received special education preschool services while enrolled in Head Start.

Migrant Child Education data for both fiscal years 1995/96 and 1990/91 were provided by ADE, Migrant Student Information Center. These services are federally funded to serve children in six Arizona counties. There may be some overlap in students served by Migrant Head Start and the state migrant preschool program.

Title I data for 1995/96 and 1990/91 were provided by the Title I Unit at the Arizona Department of Education from annual demographic reports and include home-based and site-based programs.

Even Start data for 1990/91 came from Title I enrollment applications. 1995/96 data were provided by the Early Childhood Education Unit at the Arizona Department of Education from the Even Start National Evaluation, March 1997.

At-Risk Comprehensive Preschool Program data were provided by the Early Childhood Office at the Arizona Department of Education. Figures are taken from grant applications and represent the number of children school districts proposed to serve in 1990/91 and 1996/97. Beginning in

1995/96, funding for this program was part of a block grant. School districts can apply to obtain block grant funds for a variety of purposes, including at-risk comprehensive preschool.

CHILD HEALTH AND SAFETY

Children With No Health Care Coverage: Estimates of the percentage of children with no health insurance were provided by Brad Kirkman-Liff, School of Health Administration and Policy at Arizona State University. Estimates were based on Louis Harris and Associates surveys commissioned by the Flinn Foundation and conducted in 1989 and 1995. The surveys covered children 0-16 years old. The estimate of 200,000 Arizona children with no health care coverage in 1997 was provided by Children's Action Alliance and represents a round figure between the estimate provided by Brad Kirkman-Liff of 160,541 uninsured children and the 1994 through 1996 estimate provided by the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau of 284,000 uninsured children in Arizona.

Infant Deaths (younger than 1), and Child Deaths (1-14): Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Gun-related Deaths (aged 0-19): Data are reported by calendar year in *Arizona Health Status and vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996 as provided by Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. A total of nine firearm-related deaths could not be traced back to a particular county because they occurred out-of-state, and the death certificates did not provide the information.

Child Drownings (aged 0-4): Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (aged 0-19): Data include reported cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and early syphilis. Data for calendar year 1990 are from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. Calendar year 1996 data are from the Office of HIV/STD Services, Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control, Department of Health Services.

Diagnosed Cases of HIV/AIDS (aged 0-19): Data for calendar year 1990 are from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services. Calendar year 1995 data are from the Office of HIV/STD Services, Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control, Department of Health Services. Figures include the number of cases diagnosed in each year of AIDS, HIV Ab+ Symptomatic and HIV Ab+ Asymptomatic. Because data are recorded by year of diagnosis, numbers of cases and rates may increase over time. In addition, data do not include cases of HIV Ab+ Asymptomatic from anonymous testing.

TEENS AT RISK

School Drop-outs (grades 7-12): Data for academic years 1992/93 and 1994/95 are from the Research and Evaluation Unit, Arizona Department of Education. A dropout is defined as a student who was enrolled at the end of the prior school year or at any time during the current school

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year who was not enrolled at the end of that school year and whose absence could not be explained by transfer to another school district, graduation, or death.

Birth to Teens (girls aged 10-17): Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Teen Deaths (15-19): Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Gun-related Deaths (aged 15-19): Data are reported by calendar year as provided by Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

Teen Homicides and Teen Suicides (aged 15-19): Data are reported by calendar year from *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics*, 1990 and 1996, Office of Health Planning, Evaluation and Statistics, Department of Health Services.

YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Juvenile Arrests (aged 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in *Annual Statistical Crime Review* as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. The number of arrests is the total arrests of people younger than 18 for Part I and Part II crimes. Data do not include arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. Due to incomplete reporting in a number of counties, the actual statewide number and rate of arrests is higher than shown here.

Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes (aged 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in *Annual Statistical Crime Review* as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. The number of arrests for violent crimes includes arrests of people younger than 18 for murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Arrests involving multiple charges are categorized by the most severe offense. Data do not include arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. Due to incomplete reporting in a number of counties, the actual statewide number and rate of arrests is higher than shown here.

Juvenile Arrests for Drug Crimes (aged 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in *Annual Statistical Crime Review* as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. The number of arrests for drug crimes includes arrests of people younger than 18 for illegal drug sales, manufacturing, or possession. Arrests involving multiple charges are categorized by the most severe offense. Data do not include arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. Due to incomplete reporting in a number of counties, the actual statewide number and rate of arrests is higher than shown here. The large increase in the arrest rate for drug crimes is due, in part, to increased enforcement through more law enforcement officers and curfew ordinances.

Juvenile Arrests for Runaway and Curfew Violation (aged 8-17): Data are reported by calendar year in *Annual Statistical Crime Review* as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Department of Public Safety. Data include arrests of people younger than 18 but do not include

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arrests made by tribal authorities of American Indian youth. Due to incomplete reporting in a number of counties, the actual statewide number and rate of arrests is higher than shown here. The large increase in the arrest rate for curfew violations is due, in part, to new ordinances and increased enforcement.

Juveniles Committed to the Department of Juvenile Corrections (aged 8-17): These figures represent the number of new commitments (first-time offenders and juveniles who re-offend after completing parole) and recommitments (juveniles who commit an offense while on parole) to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Corrections. The 1,264 commitments in 1993 included 1,163 juveniles; the 1,288 commitments in 1996 included 1,178 juveniles. Figures are reported by fiscal year from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Average Monthly Juvenile Population in Secure Care (aged 8-17): Figures are from the Department of Juvenile Corrections and include all secure care facilities in use during each fiscal year. The FY 1993 figures include the average monthly population for July 1992 through April 1993; the FY 1996 figures include the average monthly population for the entire fiscal year. The accuracy of the 1993 data cannot be insured due to the lack of an automated information management system. In 1987, the Department of Juvenile Corrections was sued in federal court over issues of education, health care, due process, population, discipline, and treatment services for youth in state custody. The state settled the lawsuit, known as *Johnson vs. Upchurch*, by signing a consent decree in May 1993. The decree required increased staffing ratios and improved treatment services, and also placed maximum limits on the number of youth who could be held in secure care facilities. The cap was set at 450 beds in 1993 and was raised to 566 beds in 1996. Clearly, these legal caps had some impact on the juvenile population in secure care. In addition, new legislation effective during 1996 requires juvenile judges to specify the length of secure care sentences.

Juvenile Cases Transferred to Adult Court (aged 8-17): These figures represent the number of petitions that are transferred to adult court. The figures come from *The Arizona Courts FY 1990 Data Report and Data Report Appellate and General Jurisdiction 1996*, Administrative Office of the Courts. There may be multiple petitions for a single juvenile. Proposition 102, passed by voters in November 1996, requires the filing of specific juvenile cases directly in adult criminal court. Due to the timing of implementation, the impact of Proposition 102 is not reflected in the data shown here, but will appear in the 1997 data.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

CPS Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect (aged 0-17): Data were provided by the Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. Statewide fiscal year 1997 data are reported in *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements, Annual Report for the Period July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997*. Figures represent reports taken by the Child Protective Services Central Registry that are determined to need an investigation. If more than one report is taken regarding the same circumstances for the same child, it is only counted once in the data shown here. However, if a report involves several children in the same household, it only counts as one report. On November 7, 1994, DES instituted a revised definition of a CPS report and began to phase in a new centralized reporting procedure. There is no way to accurately compare the number of reports before and after these procedural changes. The data shown in the county pages for 1997 are from

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a DES memo that displays the number of CPS reports by DES district. Maricopa County and Pima County each constitute a separate DES district. All other districts include two or more counties. The total number of CPS reports by DES district varies slightly from the statewide total reported elsewhere by DES. Fiscal Year 1990 data are reported by DES District as well.

CPS Reports Investigated: Data were provided by the Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. Fiscal year 1997 data are reported in *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements, Annual Report for the Period July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997.* A report is considered investigated if a CPS worker determines the case to be substantiated or unsubstantiated, using a process including interviews and home visits.

CPS Reports Substantiated: Data were provided by the Department of Economic Security, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. Fiscal year 1997 data are reported in *Child Welfare Reporting Requirements, Annual Report for the Period July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997.* A report is considered substantiated if an investigation concludes that abuse or neglect has occurred.

Children in Foster Care (aged 0-17): This indicator includes children who are placed in out-of-home care when the child is at imminent risk from abuse or neglect or when parents are unable or unwilling to care for them. Children in out-of-home-care may live in shelters, in homes with foster parents or relatives, in group homes, in residential treatment centers, or in hospitals.

Data included in this report come from annual reports of the State Foster Care Review Board (FCRB), Administrative Office of the Courts. The figures include dependent children in out-of-home care through the DES Administration for Children, Youth and Families and the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities, and other dependent children assigned by the court to the FCRB. (FCRB figures do not normally include delinquent or incorrigible children in out-of-home care.) FCRB data exclude out-of-home placements made by American Indian social services systems.

Fiscal year 1990 figures represent the number of children in out-of-home care as of December 1989; fiscal year 1997 figures represent the number of children in out-of-home care as of November 1996. Cases are reviewed by the FCRB within six months after a child has been in out-of-home care. Therefore, the figures for children in foster care exclude some children who have been in care for less than six months and are an undercount of the total number of children in out-of-home care.

Deaths from Abuse and Neglect (aged 0-17): Data were provided by DES, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. Figures include child deaths reported to the CPS Central Registry where information available to DES indicates that abuse or neglect was a contributing factor.

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KIDS COUNT, a project of Children's Action Alliance, is part of a nationwide effort to track the status of children in the United States and in each state. By providing policymakers, business leaders, and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children.

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